New graft complaint filed against Mercado

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2001 ★ 34 PAGES 2 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 95 ₱15

2 UP Baguio students killed by kidnappers

By Martin P. Marfil

TWO University of the Philippines-Baguio students, including the brother of an INQUIRER employee, were found dead on Sunday in separate places in Pampanga, the first casualties of kidnap gangs in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

2 UP/ A16

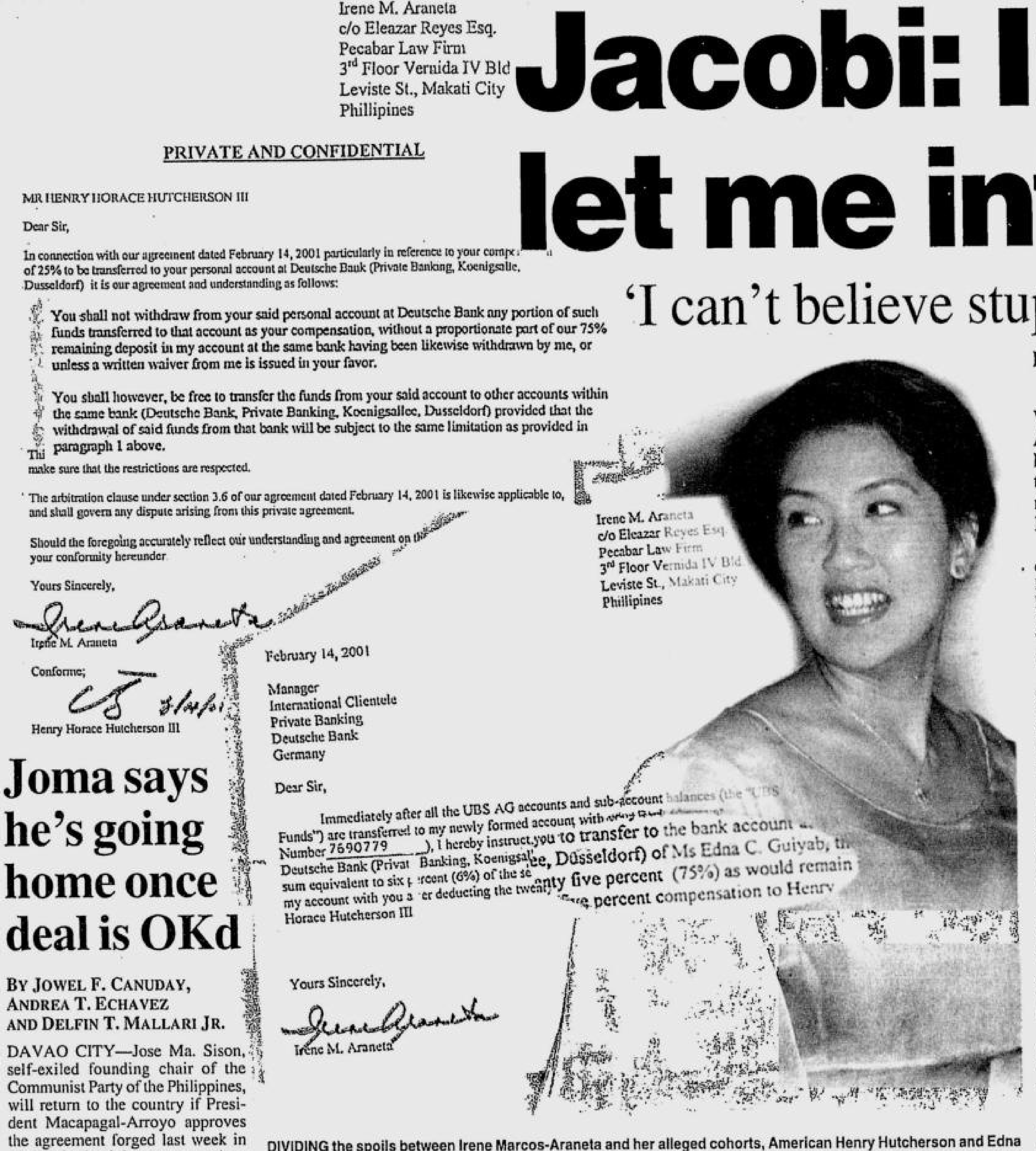
WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Quit, Indon studes to Wahid** WORLD / A11
- **Secret cloning sparks outrage** WORLD / A12

Erratum: Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco was erroneously identified on the front page of the March 12 issue as Tantangco. Our apologies.–Ed.

Jacobi: Irene pal let me into deal

'I can't believe stupidity of these people'



Irene M. Araneta
c/o Eleazar Reyes Esq.
Pecabar Law Firm
3rd Floor Vernida IV Bld
Leviste St., Makati City
Phillipines

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MR HENRY HORACE HUTCHERSON III

Dear Sir,

In connection with our agreement dated February 14, 2001 particularly in reference to your compe
of 25% to be transferred to your personal account at Deutsche Bank (Private Banking, Koenigsallee, Dusseldorf) it is our agreement and understanding as follows:

You shall not withdraw from your said personal account at Deutsche Bank any portion of such funds transferred to that account as your compensation, without a proportionate part of our 75% remaining deposit in my account at the same bank having been likewise withdrawn by me, or unless a written waiver from me is issued in your favor.

You shall however, be free to transfer the funds from your said account to other accounts within the same bank (Deutsche Bank, Private Banking, Koenigsallee, Dusseldorf) provided that the withdrawal of said funds from that bank will be subject to the same limitation as provided in paragraph 1 above.

Thi
make sure that the restrictions are respected.

The arbitration clause under section 3.6 of our agreement dated February 14, 2001 is likewise applicable to, and shall govern any dispute arising from this private agreement.

Should the foregoing accurately reflect our understanding and agreement on th
your conformity hereunder

Yours Sincerely,

Irene Araneta
Irene M. Araneta

Conforme;

3/14/01
Henry Horace Hutcherson III

Irene M. Araneta
c/o Eleazar Reyes Esq.
Pecabar Law Firm
3rd Floor Vernida IV Bld
Leviste St., Makati City
Phillipines

February 14, 2001

Manager
International Clientele
Private Banking
Deutsche Bank
Germany

Dear Sir,

Immediately after all the UBS AG accounts and sub-account balances (the "UBS Funds") are transferred to my newly formed account with
Number 7690779), I hereby instruct you to transfer to the bank account
Deutsche Bank (Privat Banking, Koenigsallee, Dusseldorf) of Ms Edna C. Guiyab, th
sum equivalent to six percent (6%) of the seventy five percent (75%) as would remain
my account with you a er deducting the twenty five percent compensation to Henry
Horace Hutcherson III

Yours Sincerely,

Irene Araneta
Irene M. Araneta

DIVIDING the spoils between Irene Marcos-Araneta and her alleged cohorts, American Henry Hutcherson and Edna Camcam, was the subject of two agreements allegedly obtained from German anti-money-laundering authorities.

By Donna S. Cueto

(Second of a series)

WHEN Irene Marcos and husband Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III arrived in Germany on Feb. 9 allegedly to launder Swiss bank deposits worth billions of dollars through Deutsche Bank, they already had the draft of a money-sharing agreement with American businessman Henry Horace "Hank" Hutcherson III.

SPECIAL REPORT

Hutcherson had earlier shown a copy of the draft to David Chaikin, lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi, who had discovered Irene Araneta's controversial "885931" account at the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) in 1998.

The agreement concerned the flow of money from Switzerland to Germany and focused on the transfer of the "first tranche," Chaikin said.

According to the deal, which still had to be finalized, the Aranetas would keep 75 percent of the amount successfully transferred from Swiss accounts, including the "885931" account believed to contain at least $13.2 billion in 1998.

Hutcherson was supposed to get 25 percent of the sum, on the condition that he could provide a "friendly banker" who would facilitate the money transfer from the Union Bank of Switzerland to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf.

The Aranetas allegedly struck a separate deal with Edna Camcam, who would get 6 percent of the Araneta's 75-percent share.

Hutcherson, unknown to the Aranetas, had allegedly promised Jacobi 10 percent of his 25-percent cut.

The American businessman, who had helped bankroll Jacobi's past investigation into the Marcos wealth, apparently believed that the Australian would help them launder the Marcos money since the investigator had not been paid by the Philippine government for his efforts.

"I could not believe the stupidity of these people," Jacobi recalled of his early meetings with Hutcherson and his partner Tim Boardman in Sydney in October last year.

"Did they really think that I would go along with their plan? That I could be bought? Did they really think that I would help them do such a thing?" he asked in an interview with the INQUIRER in Sydney, Australia.

"They were totally blind. But greed blinds you," Jacobi added.

But at the same time, he and Chaikin also realized that such a transaction could provide the "ultimate evidence" they had been waiting for to pin down the Marcoses on their unproven ill-gotten wealth. If the Aranetas exposed themselves, there would be proof that they still had accounts in Switzerland.

JACOBI/ A15

Joma says he's going home once deal is OKd

By Jowel F. Canuday, Andrea T. Echavez and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

DAVAO CITY—Jose Ma. Sison, self-exiled founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, will return to the country if President Macapagal-Arroyo approves the agreement forged last week in The Netherlands by representatives of the government and the National Democratic Front to resume peace talks on April 27.

Sison said in an interview aired over RMN network yesterday morning that as soon as the President approved the agreement, the NDF would hold "peace solidarity conferences" nationwide in which he would participate.

"(The conferences) will be the occasion for the heads of the (NDF) negotiating panel to be there (in the country)," said Sison, who is chief political consultant of the NDF peace panel.

Sison went into voluntary exile

JOMA/ A16

Irene, Greggy flew to Germany on Feb. 9, says BI

By TJ Burgonio, Donna S. Cueto and Blanche S. Rivera

IRENE Marcos and her husband Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III indeed made a trip to Germany on Feb. 9 and returned to the country 15 days later, airport immigration officials confirmed yesterday.

The heiress of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and her husband left for Frankfurt aboard Lufthansa Airlines Flight LH 751, according to immigration officer Rudy David.

The Aranetas, who were reported to have made the trip to transfer Irene's $13.2-billion account with the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany, flew back to Manila on Feb. 24 aboard Flight LH 750.

Malacañang yesterday said that it would announce something about the attempt of Irene and her husband to launder their Swiss funds as it vowed that the Macapagal administration would try to recover any Marcos account.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said that someone was working on the matter and that "he can not talk about it now."

"Rest assured that the administration is doing something about it," he said over dzRH.

De Villa's answer was cryptic when asked about the attempt by the Marcoses to try to launder their Swiss funds.

"You can hear from us about it soon," he said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) insisted that the $13.4-billion I. Arenetta account in UBS had been closed two years ago.

Citing an independent study commissioned by Swiss authorities last year, the PCGG said "the funds deposited in account 885931 and its sub-accounts did not exceed the amount CHF 20 million during the period January 1986 until the closure of the accounts on Jan. 19, 1999."

"There's still reason to doubt (the recent reports of money laun-

IRENE/ A15

High court will decide new list-up

By Armand N. Nocum and Gerald G. Lacuarta

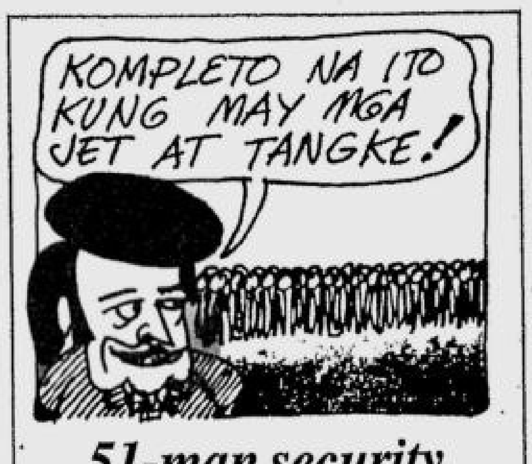
THE OFFICE of the Solicitor General will petition the Supreme Court to allow some four million new voters to register so that they can take part in the May 14 elections.

Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz yesterday said Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo was preparing the petition for the holding of a "special registration."

This came as Commissioner Resurreccion Borra of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said that a 1985 law allowing registration of voters on the sixth and seventh week before a regular election had already been superseded by a 1996 law, which prohibits the registration of voters 120 days before the elections.

Vice President Teofisto

HIGH COURT/ A16


KOMPLETO NA ITO KUNG MAY MGA JET AT TANGKE!

51-man security force guards Erap; FVR has 13; Cory, 3

By Carlito Pablo

DISGRACED leader Joseph Estrada has a 51-strong security force, making him the Philippines' most heavily guarded ex-President.

Camp Aguinaldo documents show that. the security force is composed of three military officers and 48 soldiers, mostly Marines.

51-MAN/ A16

Poor folk in Tondo cheer up Erap

DESPITE his mounting legal problems, ousted leader Joseph Estrada yesterday drew cheers from hundreds of shanty dwellers in Tondo, Manila, in contrast to the heckles President Macapagal-Arroyo received in a visit to the same community last week.

"*Naiiyak ako sa tuwa dahil sa pagtanggap sa akin* (I nearly cried with joy because of the reception given me," Estrada told newsmen during an afternoon visit in Smokey Mountain.

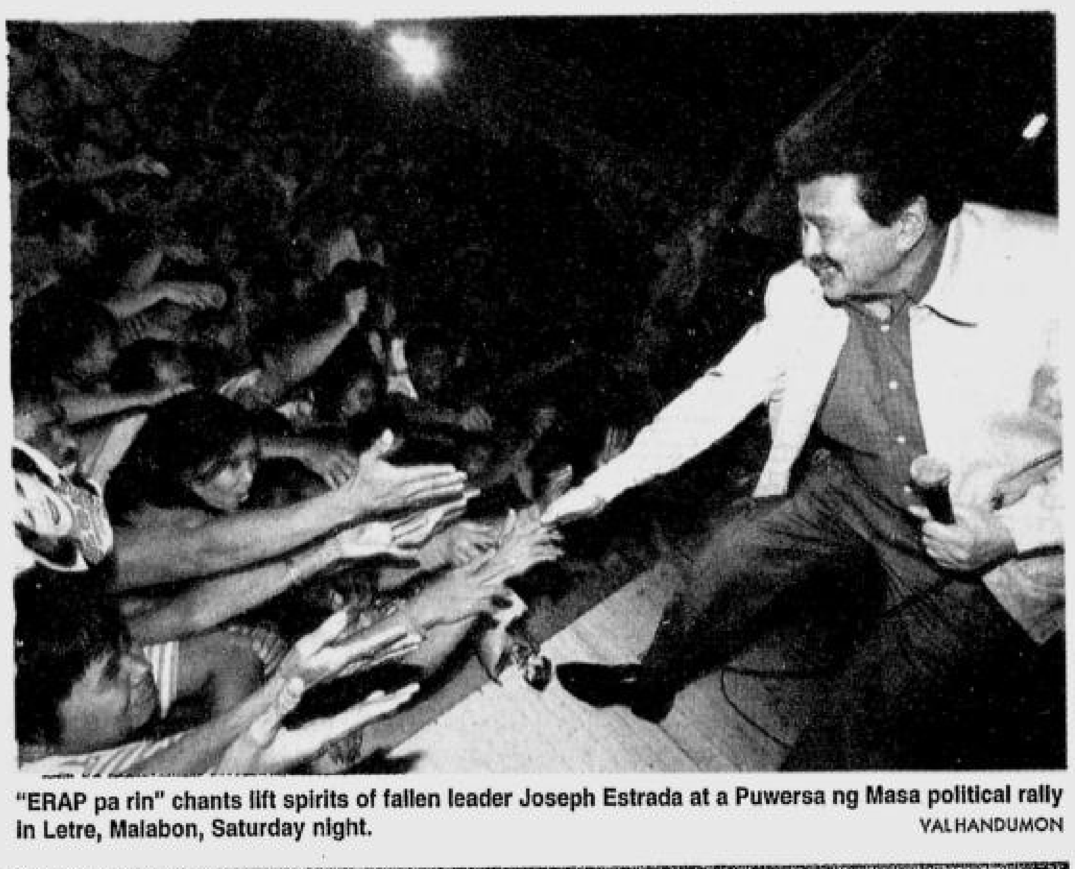
He pumped hands as he campaigned for his wife, Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada, and the other senatorial candidates of Puwersa ng Masa.

"Can I sleep there? Am I welcome here?" Estrada shouted from a wooden stage, pointing at residents crowding ledges of a tenement.

"Yes, but not Gloria," the crowd yelled back.

Many women in the crowd, some crying, squeezed their way and hugged Estrada. One handed a white towel to the former Presi-

POOR/ A16



"ERAP pa rin" chants lift spirits of fallen leader Joseph Estrada at a Puwersa ng Masa political rally in Letre, Malabon, Saturday night.

VAL HANDUMON

TOTOO BA YAN? PAKI-EKSPLIKA NGA !

BMW REPAIRS

New raps filed vs Mercado

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado has been charged anew before the Ombudsman for allegedly using government funds to repair his BMW car in January this year.

In a three-page complaint-affidavit, a certain Aguinaldo Campo asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to indict Mercado for graft, alleging that Mercado had charged the ₱272,221.44 repair job to the defense department.

Also named respondents in the complaint were Mac G. Orendain, former chief of the DND administrative services, and Benjamin Cruz, DND's former assistant secretary for comptrollership.

The amount represented two sets of disbursement vouchers that were allegedly used for the repair and supply of spare parts for Mercado's BMW 750i with Plate No. WEZ 857.

Mercado denied the charges, which were contained in a complaint filed last month. He questioned the credibility of the complainant, saying "Aguinaldo Campo" was just a fictitious name.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro earlier said that under the law, the Ombudsman is obliged to investigate any allegation or complaint filed before it. It is not for the Ombudsman to determine if a complainant is fictitious or not, he said.

Last week, Casimiro ordered a preliminary investigation of another allegation that Mercado, outgoing Armed Force chief Angelo Reyes and two other defense undersecretaries were liable for the DND's purchase of allegedly overpriced eight K-9 dogs, worth P2 million each.

MERCADO

Campo said Mercado, the then defense secretary, abused his authority in violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Government Accounting and Auditing Code, among other laws.

He said Mercado allegedly authorized the use of DND funds or public funds "to finance a vehicle owned privately and reportedly by Orlando Mercado."

The car was not registered as a government vehicle, he said.

Campo claimed that sometime in January 2001, Prestige Cars North, the accredited authorized service company for BMW vehicles, conducted repairs on the BMW. It also supplied spare parts for the BMW.

He said the two sets of disbursement vouchers were prepared by Orendain and funded by Cruz "with the instruction and knowledge of (Mercado)."

"The repair and supply of spare parts to a private vehicle using government funds is prohibited by law, and therefore, constituted corrupt and graft practices prejudicial to the interest of the government," Campo said.

He said the Orendain and Cruz should be held equally liable for graft and corruption.

As the processing of these vouchers were done clandestinely and secretly to avoid detection, Campos asked the Ombudsman to issue a subpoena for the documents on the transaction against the DND and Prestige Cars North.

But who is Aguinaldo Campo?

A COMPLAINANT with the name Aguinaldo Campo?

According to former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, the name was a dead giveaway of the dubious nature of the anti-graft case filed against him.

In a press conference, Mercado claimed the administration's "dirty tricks" department was behind the charges against him.

"Today, they have filed another complaint… this time the name of the complainant is Aguinaldo Campo. Very unique name," he said.

The complaint, he said, concerned a bullet-proof BMW car that had been assigned to him by ousted President Joseph Estrada because of supposed threats against Mercado's life.

According to Mercado, the car often broke down, so he had to send it out for repairs.

"These repairs are allowed under our existing rules and regulations if you do not have an official vehicle. But obviously, these people do not want the facts to get in the way of the story. I do not think they are interested in pursuing this case

"I would like to meet this Aguinaldo Campo. Maybe he is a relative of our non-existent 183-year-old veteran whom we buried in the DND a long time ago," he said.

Mercado, an opposition senatorial candidate, claimed the alleged resort to so-called "dirty tricks" indicated fear that the administration candidates would lose.

Edgardo Angara, another Senate aspirant, appealed to media to "please get our side simultaneously when they (the other side) put out their story."

Martin P. Marfil

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Admiral

DOJ to press extradition of Lakas bet to US

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice intends to file "later this week" an extradition case against a Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate charged with insurance fraud in the US.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez identified the candidate as Eduardo Rodriguez, the former governor of Quezon who is seeking to regain his old seat in May.

Rodriguez's wife, Imelda, is also a subject in the extradition case. Aside from insurance fraud, Mrs. Rodriguez also faces bribery raps abroad.

Perez, himself a Lakas member, said he already informed Vice President Teofisto Guingona, president of the party, about the DOJ's efforts to extradite Rodriguez.

"We informed the Vice President as a form of courtesy, which we will also extend to other parties if the subject of an extradition treaty happens to be their member," he explained.

The US request to extradite Rodriguez was submitted to the DOJ in February 1999.

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Raps readied vs 1st of 8 cops in Dacer kidnap

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday announced it would charge Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) agent SPO4 Marino Soberano for his role in the disappearance of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver in November.

Lawyer Samuel Ong, chief of the NBI National Capital Region, said the agency was readying kidnapping charges against Soberano, a member of PAOCTF Task Force Visayas.

At least eight more PAOCTF members are expected to be charged in the abduction, including seven agents who were earlier indicted before the Department of Justice in connection with the raid on a house near Dacer's home in Sun Valley subdivision on Nov. 21.

The other one is a certain SPO2 Edmund de Leon, a member of PAOCTF Task Force Luzon.

"But as of the moment, among all the people being probed, so far we will charge Soberano since we have a strong evidence against him," said Ong, belying reports that Soberano was being considered as a state witness.

Libel suit

Also yesterday, former PAOCTF chief for Luzon Senior Supt. Cezar Mancao said he was preparing libel charges against the INQUIRER for publishing "a completely baseless and fabricated story" which he said implicated him in Dacer's disappearance.

Mancao said in a news release the INQUIRER story quoting unnamed sources that he dispatched a second white Toyota Revo car, which was allegedly used as backup car when Dacer's Revo was dumped in Maragondon, Cavite, was "malicious and does not carry an iota of truth."

Mancao said he had worked real hard to protect his integrity as a police officer by performing his duties with utmost honesty and dedication and would never allow himself to be involved in illegal activities.

"Is this what I get for serving my country well? The INQUIRER reporter should realize that I've worked real hard to protect my integrity as a police officer and he should have been more responsible enough to verify his information," Mancao said.

Two witnesses

Ong told reporters yesterday that his men had gathered prima facie evidence to indict Soberano for the abduction of Dacer, a public relations practitioner, and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Ong said two NBI witnesses—vendors selling hand towels—positively identified Soberano as one of the armed men who stopped and commandeered Dacer's white Revo on South Superhighway in Manila on Nov. 24.

"He was also identified as a member of the PAOCTF team who conducted a raid on No. 3439 Marigold Street in Sun Valley subdivision," Ong said.

The address referred to a house near Dacer's home, which was raided three days before the abduction.

The NBI believes the raid could have been a cover for an intensive surveillance on Dacer.

"It is also interesting to note that Soberano is from Maragondon, Cavite. So he is familiar with the place," Ong said.

Dacer's Revo van was found at the bottom of a deep ravine in Maragondon less than a week after the abduction.

But no traces of either Dacer or Corbito were found in the van, according to probers.

Right to remain silent

Lawyer Fred Perito, counsel for the PAOCTF men, told Ong that his clients—Soberano, his superior Police Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña, and all PAOCTF men involved in the Nov. 21 raid—had asserted their right to remain silent.

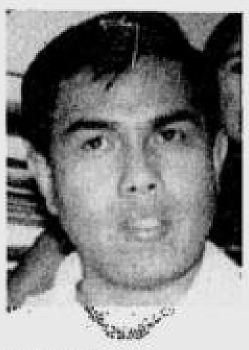
"They will not comment (on the case). They will just answer any charges that would be brought before the courts or the Department of Justice," Ong quoted Perito as saying.

Ong said three days before Nov. 21, De Leon was spotted by security guards roaming around Sun Valley subdivision.

"When confronted, he identified himself as a SPO2 De Leon of the PAOCTF," said Ong, adding that the guards saw two vehicles—a Lite ACE van and a car—"filled with people."

Regarding Viña, Ong said: "Well, the evidence that we have against him was days after the abduction of Dacer he talked to reporters in Cebu that he was in Cebu before, during and after the abduction."

But a Philippine Airline manifest showed he left for Manila afternoon of Nov. 23. Ong said Viña went back to Cebu on the evening of Nov. 24. Dacer was abducted at about 11:30 p.m. of the same day.



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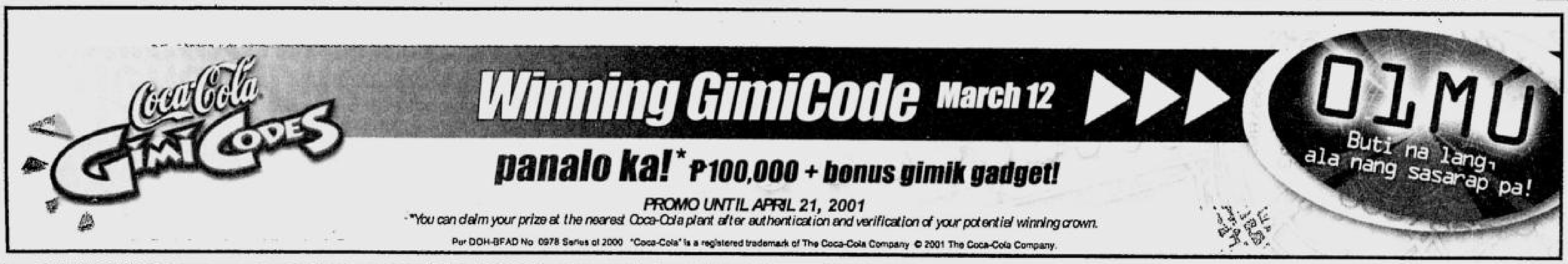

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TO OUR DEAR PATRONS AND CLIENTELE

On February 22, 2001, between 8:30 to 8:45 in the evening, a fire broke out between the third and fourth floors of the Delegation Building of the Philippine International Convention Center. A few minutes after, firemen from the responding fire stations of Metro Manila worked hand in hand in putting out the fire that spread to the fifth floor of the building. A "Fire Out" was declared the following day. **There were no casualties** but there were reports of minor injuries to a couple of responding Firemen.

Meeting Room No. 1 located on the third floor of the Delegation Building was burned down including some offices of tenants. The Secretariat, Plenary Hall and Reception Hall buildings were not directly affected by the fire and have been declared safe and structurally sound by engineering consultants of PICC.

"Task Force PICC" an inter-agency investigating group headed by Sr. Supt. Romeo P. Villafuerte as Task Force Commander was dispatched by the DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina after the fire was put out and was tasked to determine the cause of the fire incident.

After the declaration of the "Fire Out", the PICC Management relocated the displaced offices to available office spaces and rooms at the PICC Secretariat Building. Clients who have scheduled events within the next three months were also called to apprise them of the situation and assure them that the events they have scheduled, can at their option, push through by using other available meeting rooms of the PICC. After an inspection and evaluation of the damaged areas of the Delegation Building, the organizers of the following major forthcoming events have confirmed to hold their events at PICC.

- Philippine Pediatric Society Annual Convention, April 1-4
- Manila F.A.M.E. International (MFI), April 18-26 (Fair Proper: April 22-25)
- Centennial Celebration and 92nd National Convention of the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches in the Philippines, April 26-29
- 93rd Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention, April 30 - May 5
- Philippine College of Physicians Annual Convention, May 9-12

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the PICC Management regret this unfortunate incident and are one in assuring you and the public that the PICC Delegation Building will be restored and improved to serve you better. We will exert all efforts to make the PICC, once again, one of the best convention centers in Asia.

ARACELI E. VILLANUEVA
General Manager

NTC allays fears on texting curbs

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has assuaged fears that its plan to regulate text messaging would violate the human rights of individuals.

The Commission on Human Rights had earlier warned the NTC against proceeding with its plan to regulate text messaging in order to contain abusive users of the service.

Telecommunications Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio Jr. said yesterday the CHR's concern was unfounded.

"They (CHR) said we might monitor the private communications of people. We will only act on complaints when these are filed with us. We would not do anything that would violate human rights. We won't be monitoring messages because that would be impossible," Rio said.

The NTC has postponed issuance of the memorandum to later this week.

"We were told not to hurry. Besides we don't want the CHR and the Department of Justice to complain after we had issued the memorandum," Rio said.

Curbing abuses

Last week, the NTC ordered mobile phone companies to inform their subscribers of the eventual regulation of text messaging, or the short messaging service, in order to curb abusive texting.

"Globe Telecom said it would act immediately upon issuance of the order by the commission. The letter-order will be coming out sometime next week," Rio said.

He said Smart Communications Inc., the other telecoms giant, requested a two-week grace period before complying with the NTC order because of the expense involved.

Globe and Smart have an estimated combined six million subscribers.

"The important thing is due process," Rio said, adding that under their contract with cellphone companies, subscribers could be disconnected from the service if they abuse it.

He also said that Section 24 of Department Order No. 11, series of 1950, stipulates that transmitting or spreading malicious and obscene messages was illegal and perpetrators could be prosecuted.

A person who receives an abusive text message could proceed to an NTC complaint center located in every region of the country to report the incident.

The complainant would present the cellphone with the offending text message and the number of the sender. He must also sign an affidavit documenting the complaint.

The NTC would then have the cellphone company text the sender ordering him to report to the NTC within a few days to air his side. Failure to report would result in the sender's phone service being temporarily disconnected.

The NTC was forced to act against abusers of the texting service after unsolicited and unverified rumors and obscene messages have been making its way into the system.

Foremost among the malicious rumors were the deaths of the Pope in Rome and former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

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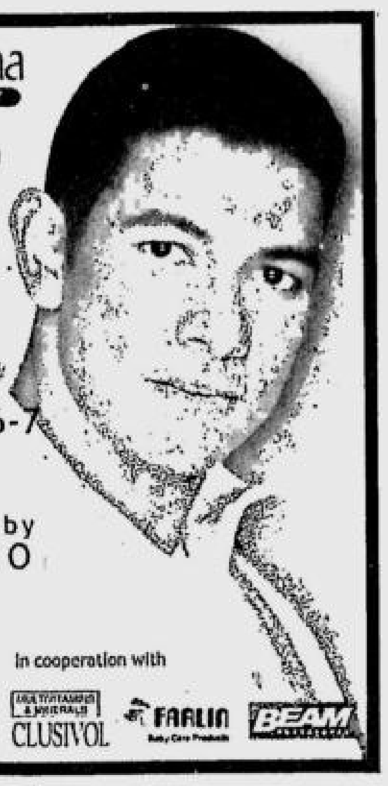

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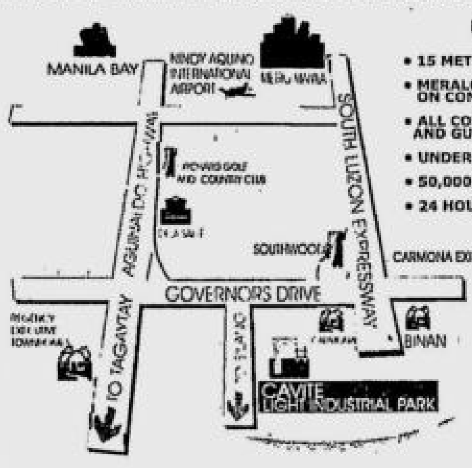

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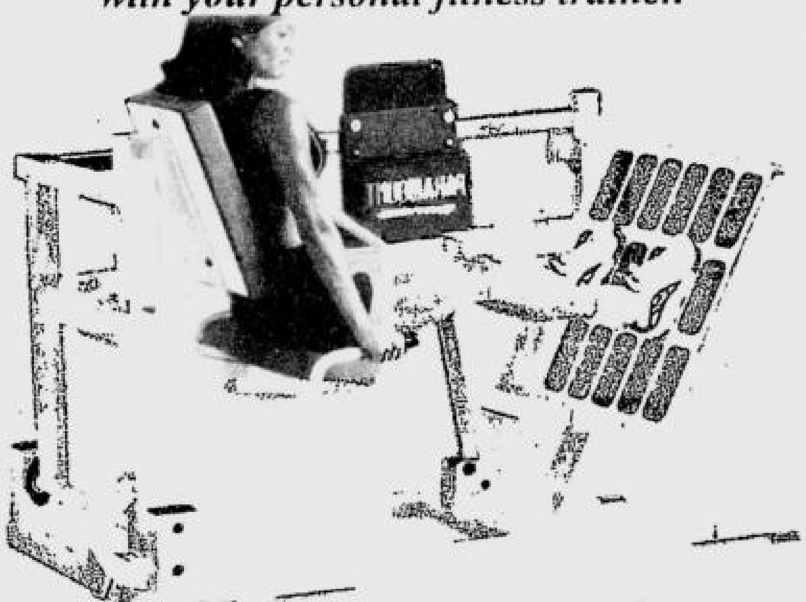

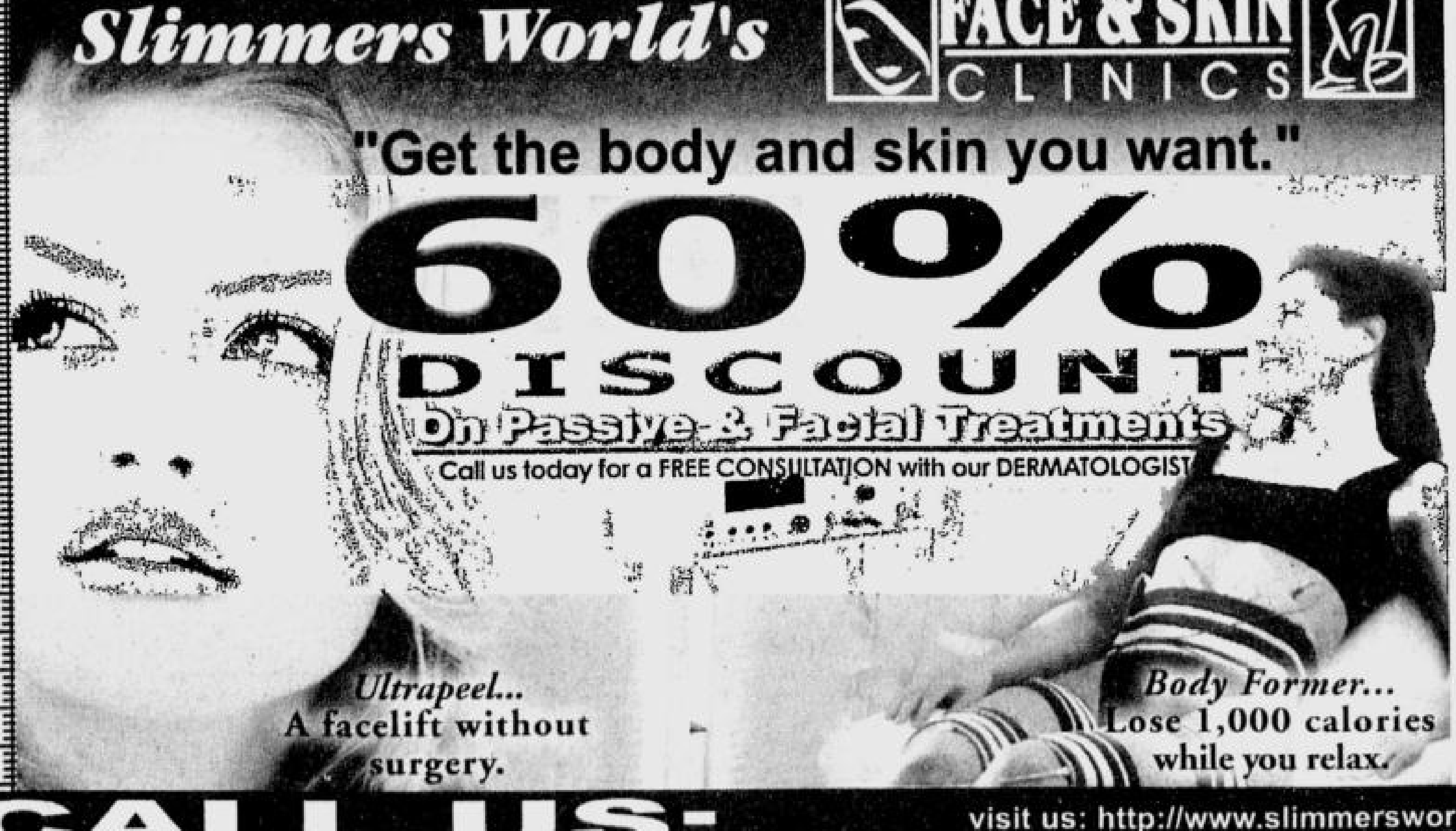

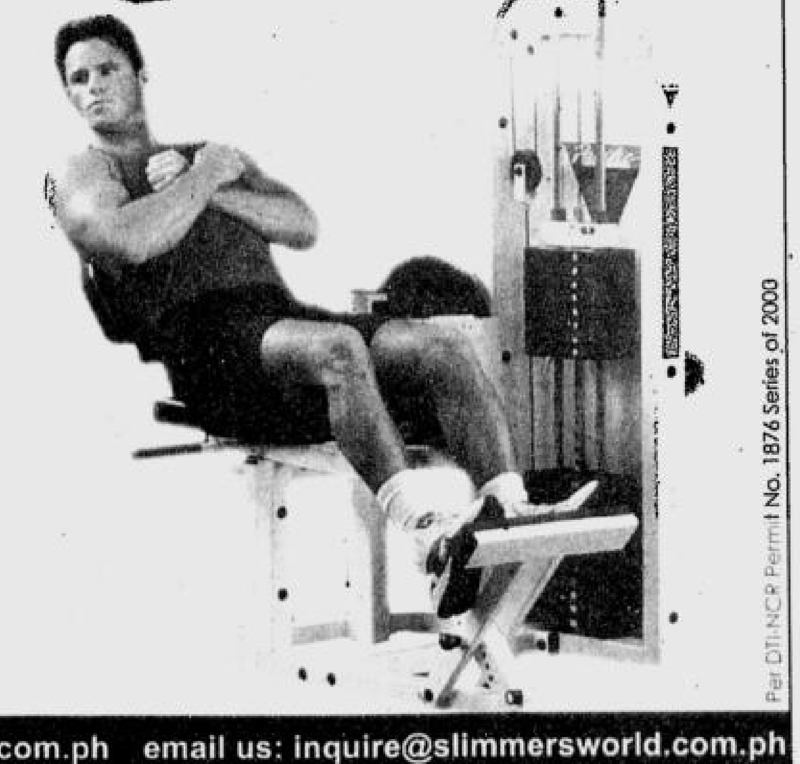

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Erap's phobia prompts DOJ to merge 13 plunder cases

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

TALK about being humane and considerate.

Out of concern for ousted President Joseph Estrada's triskaidekaphobia, the justice department will consolidate the rest of the plunder cases it intends to file against the deposed leader so that the total number will not reach 13.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday explained he does not want to be accused of filing 13 cases against Estrada on purpose, given the disgraced Estrada's known phobia for the supposedly unlucky number.

The Department of Justice has so far filed eight plunder cases against Estrada, the latest of which was based on an affidavit of his erstwhile crony, Mark Jimenez.

Jimenez claimed in his affidavit that Estrada had "extorted" P346 million from him from December 1998 to August 2000.

A ninth plunder charge is in the works, reportedly to be based on the testimony of another Estrada crony, William Gatchalian.

The Chinese-Filipino businessman is reportedly willing to spill the beans on Estrada's alleged use of state-run pension funds to purchase stocks in Gatchalian's Waterfront Philippines.

Gatchalian and Perez were supposed to be meeting late last night to discuss the case.

Although Gatchalian is reportedly having second thoughts about "betraying" Estrada, Perez said the DOJ remains confident that it has enough evidence to build five more plunder cases following Jimenez's revelations.

Perez had previously told reporters that the number of plunder charges against Estrada could reach 13.

"Whether Gatchalian testifies or not, the DOJ believes it has enough evidence to build 13 cases against Erap (Estrada's nickname)," Perez said in a news conference.

"But our concern is that Estrada might think we want to reach this number on purpose, so we are studying the possibility of consolidating some of them (to lessen the number of cases)," he said.

Estrada's fear of the number 13 once drove him to deny that he was the country's 13th president.

His fears may have some basis, however. Thirteen justices of the Supreme Court, in an en banc decision, unanimously ruled that he was no longer the President and that President Macapagal-Arroyo was not just an Acting President.

Perez noted that even if Gatchalian opts not to cooperate, the DOJ would still be able to build 13 cases with the evidence it already has.

Perez said he heard one of Gatchalian's children in a radio interview yesterday saying the crony had no intention of betraying his friendship with Estrada.

But Perez pointed out that it was Gatchalian who had sent feelers to the DOJ expressing his interest in testifying against Estrada.

The secretary added that apart from Gatchalian, two other cronies of the former president have indicated their willingness to reveal information damaging to Estrada.

"I don't want to go into details because they will be identifiable once the issues they will talk about are revealed to the press," Perez said.

"Besides, they are scared. I think Gatchalian is also scared, that's why he has second thoughts about testifying," he added.

FVR goes on the stump for PPC bets

By Christine Avendaño

FORMER President Fidel Ramos has started to make his presence felt on the campaign trail of the administration's People Power Coalition.

Ramos graced the PPC rally in front of the Marikina City hall Sunday night where he urged local residents to vote for all 13 senatorial candidates of the PPC in the May 14 elections.

"I am here to thank you for supporting me when I was your president and to ask you to help the PPC candidates win," Ramos said.

Ramos has been considered by some quarters to be the real power behind the Macapagal administration after some officials of his administration turned up in positions of power in the current government.

Ramos assured Marikina residents the 13 PPC candidates would make good senators as they have the track records to prove it.

To reporters he said he was "optimistic" the PPC candidates will sweep the elections.

Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, PPC media director, said Ramos has made himself available to the PPC for its campaign rallies and sorties.

Limcaoco said Ramos will "immensely" boost the chances of the PPC bets to win the elections.

Ramos joins President Macapagal-Arroyo on the campaign trail, on the occasions she could take time off from presidential duties, but it was not known if they would be campaigning together.

Lakas national executive director Joey Rufino said Ms Macapagal welcomed the assistance of Ramos whom she appointed a special ambassador to represent the country on diplomatic missions abroad.

Ninoy's squabbling siblings at it again

By Juliet L. Javellana

BUTZ AQUINO

TESSIE ORETA

PAUL AQUINO

LUPITA KASHIWAHARA

WHAT would Ninoy Aquino have said at the spectacle of his siblings battling the coming elections from opposite sides of the political fence?

There was for starters Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino predicting a 13-0 win for the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, eliciting disbelieving laughter from his brother and sister on the pro-administration People Power Coalition.

Even as Butz was making his fearless forecast yesterday, his older brother Paul was formally taking over as national campaign director of the PPC.

Their sister, film director Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, is also helping the PPC camp, giving advice to the candidates on how to project a better image. Lupita observes the PPC rallies and interviews of the candidates to help them "'maximize what they have."

Their youngest sibling, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, is with Butz Aquino in the opposition camp. Oreta is supposed to have already "reconciled" with her siblings and relatives who had been embarrassed by her infamous jig the night the Estrada impeachment trial collapsed as a result of her vote and that of 10 other pro-Estrada senators.

Butz Aquino is reported to have said that if ousted President Joseph Estrada, benefactor of the LDP-PnM, was jailed for plunder, this would ensure a 13-0 victory for the opposition.

"Maybe that will happen in 2004," Paul Aquino laughed as he tried to shoo off reporters.

He said that what Butz was actually proclaiming was 13-0 for the PPC.

Kashiwahara also laughed off her brother's bold prediction.

"Do cows fly? Is there a snowball in hell?" she said.

Kashiwahara said she was not surprised about Butz Aquino's predicament and political allegiance.

"My brother has always been very independent-minded," she said. She said they parted political ways in the 1998 presidential elections when Butz opted to support Estrada.

Paul Aquino and Kashiwahara helped in the failed presidential bid of Alfredo Lim in 1998 and the late Speaker Ramon Mitra in 1992.

Kashiwahara said there are no hard feelings between the siblings.

She said their mother's birthday on March 6 provided an occasion for her, Paul and Butz to have a "friendly" talk and teasing about their respective candidates.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., PPC national campaign manager, said he was confident all 13 PPC bets would win especially if the Commission on Elections agrees to hold a special registration to enable some 4.5 million unregistered youths to register in time to vote in the May 14 polls.

"By telling the truth," Guingona said, when asked how the PPC proposes to ensure a sweep.

Guingona said the PPC had "taken steps to correct" the organizational problems that have been besetting its campaign. The problems included conflicts in the campaign sorties, quarrels among local candidates and miscommunication among the different parties in the coalition.

Yesterday, the PPC finally seemed to have gotten its act together during the blessing of its headquarters with Paul Aquino taking over the campaign operations from Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, now PPC spokesman.

Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano, PPC deputy campaign manager for Metro Manila, said he expects better coordination and organized campaign sorties from now on.

Cayetano said the PPC has declared "free zones" in Valenzuela and Marikina where the PPC partners could choose their own candidates.

But he said the PPC wants to "minimize" these practice as local feuds could endanger the victory of the senatorial candidates.

The PPC senatorial candidates—Frank Drilon, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sergio Osmeña III, Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Ernesto Herrera, Ralph Recto, Wigberto Tañada, Francis Pangilinan, Winnie Monsod, Liway Chato and Obet Pagdanganan—belittled the LDP-PnM's 13-0 prediction for itself.

They said the sins of the disgraced Estrada would bring defeat to the opposition coalition.

Herrera cited the alleged involvement of LDP candidate Panfilo Lacson's Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the disappearance of public relations man Bubby Dacer. He said this could "demolish" Lacson and his fellow candidates.

Herrera also said Lacson should be prosecuted and jailed for wiretapping, citing Lacson's own admission.

Villar said the people would reject the opposition because of the "excesses of the Estrada administration."

Pangilinan said the record of the PPC candidates as principled public servants "speaks for itself."

Chato laughed off Lacson's charge that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has hatched an "Oplan Lucky Nine" to derail the victory of nine opposition candidates.

"Where did they get that number?" Chato asked.

Said Arroyo: "Chato, remember the other party is a party of gamblers."

Herrera said Lacson had cooked up the *oplan* to "justify their eventual defeat."

Limcaoco predicted a 13-0 sweep despite the harassment suffered by the PPC in Manila last Saturday, when its candidates were not allowed to hold rallies or sorties in the Tutuban Center Mall and Plaza Miranda.

"Manila is not an Erap country. I think we will win in Manila as well," Limcaoco said.

CONSORTIUM OF WOMEN'S COLLEGES

APPEAL FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS

We, the students of the Consortium of Women's Colleges, firmly denounce COMELEC'S refusal to extend the registration for first time voters.

It is distressing to know that, due to the lack of an intensive information campaign by the COMELEC, more than four million Filipino Youth were not able to register and, therefore, will remain voiceless this May elections.

The experience of People Power 2 has awakened the spirit of nationalism among us Youth. As one of the power groups behind its success, we must not be denied the right to be heard.

We urgently appeal to the COMELEC to conduct a special registration for first-time voters. We are no longer just the "hope of the future" — we are the "nation-builders of today."

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Lacson to sue Joker for libel

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday vowed to file libel charges against Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo for accusing him of being corrupt.

Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief, said in a news release he had to protect his name from the "malicious imputation made against his person" in a news item which appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 10.

Lacson was referring to the seventh paragraph of the boxed story titled "Billionaires among Erap bets named" which quoted Arroyo as saying, "*Ay naku. Grabe yan sa* corruption."

Arroyo also claimed in the same article that Lacson was the "richest candidate as shown by his expensive campaign posters and vehicles."

Lacson said he had already talked with his lawyers and they agreed to file a libel suit within the week in Cavite, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino candidate's home province.

"I believe Congressman Arroyo's tirade is a low blow considering that I have never been accused of graft before any court of law," Lacson said.

Lacson pointed out that in his entire career in the Armed Forces and later in the PNP, he managed to keep his nose clean. This was the reason, he added, why he had never been linked to fund anomalies, including "jueteng" payola.

"I have to protect my honor from Congressman Arroyo's malicious attack since I have worked very hard to maintain my clean name. Mr. Arroyo should also realize that the election campaign does not give him the license to besmirch the reputation of any candidate," Lacson said.

Edsa vets give Erap bets icy reception

OPPOSITION senatorial candidates yesterday tried to woo some of those college students who had walked out of their classes in January to join the people power uprising at Edsa that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But students at the Philippine Normal University yesterday appeared not too thrilled at the prospect of a close encounter with the senatorial aspirants of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino(LDP)-Puwersa ng Masa.

Four of the 13 Puwersa candidates showed up at the PNU campus on Taft Avenue yesterday afternoon for a candidate's forum arranged by the PNU Student Council and major campus organizations.

Although school officials had canceled the afternoon classes so the students could attend the forum, only around 200 students sat through the three-hour program at the university auditorium.

A couple of dozen other students loitered by the auditorium doors, from where they could see the candidates onstage but not hear their speeches.

Some of these students told the INQUIRER that they had already made their choices but did not say who they would vote for.

Most of the students interviewed admitted, however, that they, like some 4 million other youths, had not been able to register though they were qualified to vote.

They said they would register if the Commission on Elections were to hold a special registration.

PNU students and faculty were among those who joined the four-day People Power II revolt on Jan. 20.

PNU instructor Serafin Arviola, Jr. said the students had convened the forum to hear the candidates' platform. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

ANGARA

Angara bewails low level of debate

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara yesterday batted for debates on national issues as he deplored the kind of topics being discussed during the campaign and the quality of those running for office.

"The issue is here is who among those running for senator—we have seen during the impeachment how important every single senator is—who these candidates really are. Where do they stand? What are their experiences?" Angara, former executive secretary of disgraced President Joseph Estrada asked.

"Does that mean that if you were a prosecutor or if you were an ABS-CBN commentator, you can become a senator? There are many commentators in ABS-CBN who are good but does that mean that can be the sole qualification for becoming a senator? Those questions are not being asked," he added.

Angara was asked yesterday in a press conference his comments about a supposed offer from the administration to have Estrada go on exile.

Angara balked at the question, commenting that the campaign debates had sunk to such a low level and that they focused on personalities.

"We should go back to the issues and not the personality, just one personality. What is the country's problem? The poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer, how do we breach that gap? What do we do? This should be what should be the topics for the national debate," he said. ***Martin Marfil***

AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

On the perils of the anti-people, anti-consumer provisions of the proposed

OMNIBUS POWER ACT

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Manila

7 March 2001

YOUR EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Dear Madam President:

I write to call your attention to the impending passage of the Omnibus Power Bill which is now under consideration by the Bicameral Conference Committee where I sit as a Member of the Senate Panel.

While I congratulate you for recognizing the urgency of this landmark legislation, I warn you from being hoodwinked by clearly entrenched special interest groups who have successfully stonewalled all efforts to incorporate genuine safeguards against harmful monopoly and market domination and the elimination of loopholes in rate setting that had been resulting in the onerous and abusive overpricing of electricity to consumers.

Although some of my amendments had been adopted, many truly meaningful safeguards to assure genuine market competition and adequate protection for our consumers were left out of the Senate and bicameral versions.

My one year fight to guard against the exploitation of the electric consumers has been a frustrating one. It seems there were hidden hands with veto power over pro-consumer amendments.

I ask that Your Excellency look out for the following important safeguards:

1. Right of distribution utilities like Meralco to charge the government for stranded costs on their own bilateral contracts would ultimately cost consumers P15 to P20 billion.

Meralco is claiming "equal treatment" with Napocor even if only had a bilateral contract with a sister company -- the wholly Lopez-owned First Gas. This was negotiated privately within the same family. The probability of sweetheart pricing and escalator and fuel indexing is very high. They thought they can just pass on the cost to the consumers as part of the "Purchased Power Adjustment".

It would be a betrayal of the consumers' interest if the authors of this law will allow automatic charging of these sweetheart costs to the poor electric consumers without strong safeguards and mitigation. My efforts to put in the protection have always been blocked. This stranded cost alone, if allowed, will cost the consumers P15 to P20 billion.

We must require the elimination of those sweetheart costs before private utilities are allowed to recover their stranded costs from the consumers.

2. Cross-Ownership Limits between Distributors and Generators

The right way to prevent market manipulation and assure true competition among generators is to absolutely ban the cross-ownership between distributors and generators. This, however, would require divestment by the Lopez group of their prized 1,500 MW First Gas Power Co.. an unrealistic goal since the powerful family would never allow it.

I, therefore, proposed what I thought should be a practical compromise: To allow private distrubution utilities to buy from sister or affiliated generators up to 30 percent of their requirement, a level that Meralco can meet within the five-year effectivity of the limit

Yet, any such limit has so far disappeared from the bill.

3. Bilateral Contracts between Distributors and Generators

I had originally proposed limiting to 70 percent the distributors requirements that can be locked in long-term bilateral contracts . The idea is to ensure that there is enough market demand available for market competition to bid for.

Because of the experience in California, this can be raised to 95 percent, leaving a modest 5 percent for the Spot Market.

This is not the main issue, however, for the consumers. We need to ensure transparency and competition in granting these bilateral contracts. They, therefore, must be subjected to open competitive bidding supervised by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB).

Special interest groups have successfully eliminated this proposal to require open bidding for the APPROVAL of the ERB.

Even with open access and retail competition, about 60 percent of electric consumers will still be captive customers of the distribution utilities.

I ask Your Excellency to ensure that these bilateral contracts are subjected to open bidding to protect the captive consumers.

4. Safeguards against Monopoly and Market Domination

I have been proposing that the ownership or control by a provider of the country's generating capacity be limited to 30 percent of a grid and 25 percent of national demand. The idea is to assure that, MATHEMATICALLY AT LEAST, four (4) power generating firms will supply the country's power needs.

Currently, the bicam version allows 40 percent of a grid and 30 percent of the national grid as the limits. These are very high. It means only three competitors could be competing in a grid. Worse, it means Meralco can negotiate with sister-company generators up to 40 percent of the Luzon grid or approximately 2,300MW. That is equivalent to 57 percent of the demand of Meralco, the country's most credit-worthy and desirable buyer of power.

That is too much domination!

Monopoly and market domination work against the consumers. Low electric rates as results of competition and must be protected from the evils of negotiated contracts.

I ask that we insist on the lower limits of 30 percent of the grid and 25 percent of national demand. The current 40/30 limits are too high to promote competition that will benefit consumers.

5. Plugging the Loopholes to Prevent Abuse of Retail Rates

Both the House and Senate versions of the Omnibus Power Bill have been concentrating on the generation side of power to reduce the electricity cost to industries and consumers. But this is only one part of the energy issue.

It is equally important to plug the loopholes in the retail rate setting that has been resulting in overpriced electricity to consumers.

It is time that we liberate the consumers from the long-time abuse in the following areas:

a) Utility Income Tax.

We must put an end to the **onerous** if not **illegal practice of making electric consumers pay for Meralco's income taxes** which amount to billions of pesos yearly.

b) Guaranteed "Return on Rate Base"

Kindly realize, Madam President, that an **8-percent RORB is actually equivalent to 24 percent return on invested equity.** And if you make that after tax, it is **actually 37 percent of guaranteed profits** on this government-granted franchise business.

c) Double Family Profits through negotiated procurement of equipment and services from sister companies.

Currently there is no law that prevents "sweetheart" practices in the power sector. This, however, is practically allowing the transfer of additional profits from a regulated business (the distribution utility) to a non-regulated company (the vendor-suppliers).

I fought for the inclusion of safeguards by requiring public bidding for all major procurement of distribution utilities. I don't understand why the main framers of this law would not consider it. Once again, some hidden but powerful hands appear to be vetoing it.

Madam President, you must protect the consumers from further exploitation by including these safeguards.

6. Development of Competitive Market

Private distributors have been crying for a "level playing field." They say restrictions on their plans to expand and buy more generators and takeover electric cooperatives are anti-Filipino.

The reality is the country's power market is already **dominated by Meralco to the tune of 70 percent of the Luzon grid or 62 percent of national demand. All the other distributors combined -- the 119 electric cooperatives and the 10 private utilities -- are not even half the size of Meralco's market.** This is a virtual monopoly in the Luzon grid. If that is not market domination, what is?

This concept was adopted in a version of the bicam report. However, since there is strong opposition to this provision, it could easily disappear.

I ask Her Excellency that this provision be retained. It is the right thing to do for the consumers.

7. Assurance of Power Supply

The hope of a successful deregulated power sector is for the private power generators to step up efforts all the time to build the new power plants that would be needed by the country. But what happens if they don't as what happened in California?

To assure adequate power supply, I propose that the Department of Energy be designated as the "generator of last resort". This means that if it appears that the private sector is not building enough power plants, the DOE will step in and promote new projects. If the private sector is not willing to invest in new power plants, the government will have to provide this vital public service.

Madam President this safeguard is essential to prevent another power crisis from happening.

8. ERB's Power of "Prevention"

You will be surprised that the tug of war in the language of the power bill can be as subtle as this inclusion of the word "prevent" in the regulatory power of the ERB.

I have been supporting moves to give the ERB the power to prevent market abuses but the hidden hands have been too powerful to stop

I ask Your Excellency to truly empower the regulators and give them the authority to "prevent" abusive market practices.

9. A Stronger, Independent Regulatory Agency

Ironically, deregulation will not succeed without a strong and truly independent regulatory body.

I therefore ask Your Excellency to be very judicious in your choice of regulators. Please give the consumers a chance at being treated fairly.

If we do not look after them. who will?

10. Fairness to Electric Cooperatives.

Many people could not understand why electric cooperatives are being protected. Actually we are only giving them the time to adjust from operating as cooperatives to operating as utilities that would compete under a deregulated environment's rural development program. Although efforts are clear to weaken them so that they are vulnerable to takeover. We cannot just let them die under abrupt competition.

I ask that you do not allow this to happen to these potent institutions of rural development.

Please beware, Madam President, of people who will try to dismiss these consumer concerns as a "rehash of old issues." The fact is these were never properly addressed. Furthermore, please avoid being misled by those who will claim that inadequacies in the power bill can be corrected by "tightening the implementing rules." It is a fact that implementing rules and regulations (IRRs) cannot legally reverse the intent of the basic law.

Finally, I realize that this task will not be easy. It will require every ounce of your resolve and political will as leader of this nation to come up with a power bill that will serve those who are supposed to be served and protected -- the electric consumers.

We now have a rare opportunity to set things right in the power industry in the interest of protecting the consumers and making amends for the many years they have been defenseless, victimized and abused. I firmly believe that your Administration will not allow and cannot afford this opportunity to be squandered.

More power to you, Madam President.

Very truly yours,

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator

advt.

OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Asking to be heard

CHAIR Alfredo Benipayo of the Commission on Elections is not keen on holding a special registration of about four million new voters for the coming election. He has cited various reasons for not making a special listing. He said the Comelec would not hold a new registration even if Congress amended the law that bans the registration of voters 120 days before an election.

Benipayo would rather disfranchise four million 18-year-old voters than go through the trouble of a special registration. He has cited the need for an amendatory law. The leaders of Congress said they were ready to meet in a special session to pass the amendatory law.

Benipayo also said funds would be needed to conduct the special registration. President Macapagal herself has given the assurance that the government would provide the P100 million needed for the new registration.

Benipayo and other people opposing the holding of a new registration said that the new voters were given sufficient notice last year of the Dec. 27 deadline for registration. But apparently the information drive was not comprehensive enough because many young voters say this is the first time they've heard that the deadline has passed.

Those who are opposing the special registration say that the 18-year-olds who failed to register apparently were apathetic and not serious about their civic duties. But many of them neglected to register precisely because they were performing their civic and political duties. They were among the hundreds of thousands who kept watch over the Senate impeachment trial; they were among those who participated in People Power II. Now they're being accused of apathy and indifference. How's that again?

There are precedents for the holding of special registration of voters. The Comelec authorized a special registration for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections on May 6, 1996 and another special listing for the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Sept. 9, 1996. There can be a special registration only for the May elections this year.

The four million new voters are eager to register and to cast their ballots in the May elections. They want to have a say in the election of national and local government officials who will hold office in the next three to six years. They've seen what havoc can be wreaked by an incompetent and corrupt president, supported by senators who do not have the public welfare at heart. The youth want their voices to be heard. The government, including the Comelec, should do everything within its power to register and allow them to exercise their right to vote.

Waiting to be heard

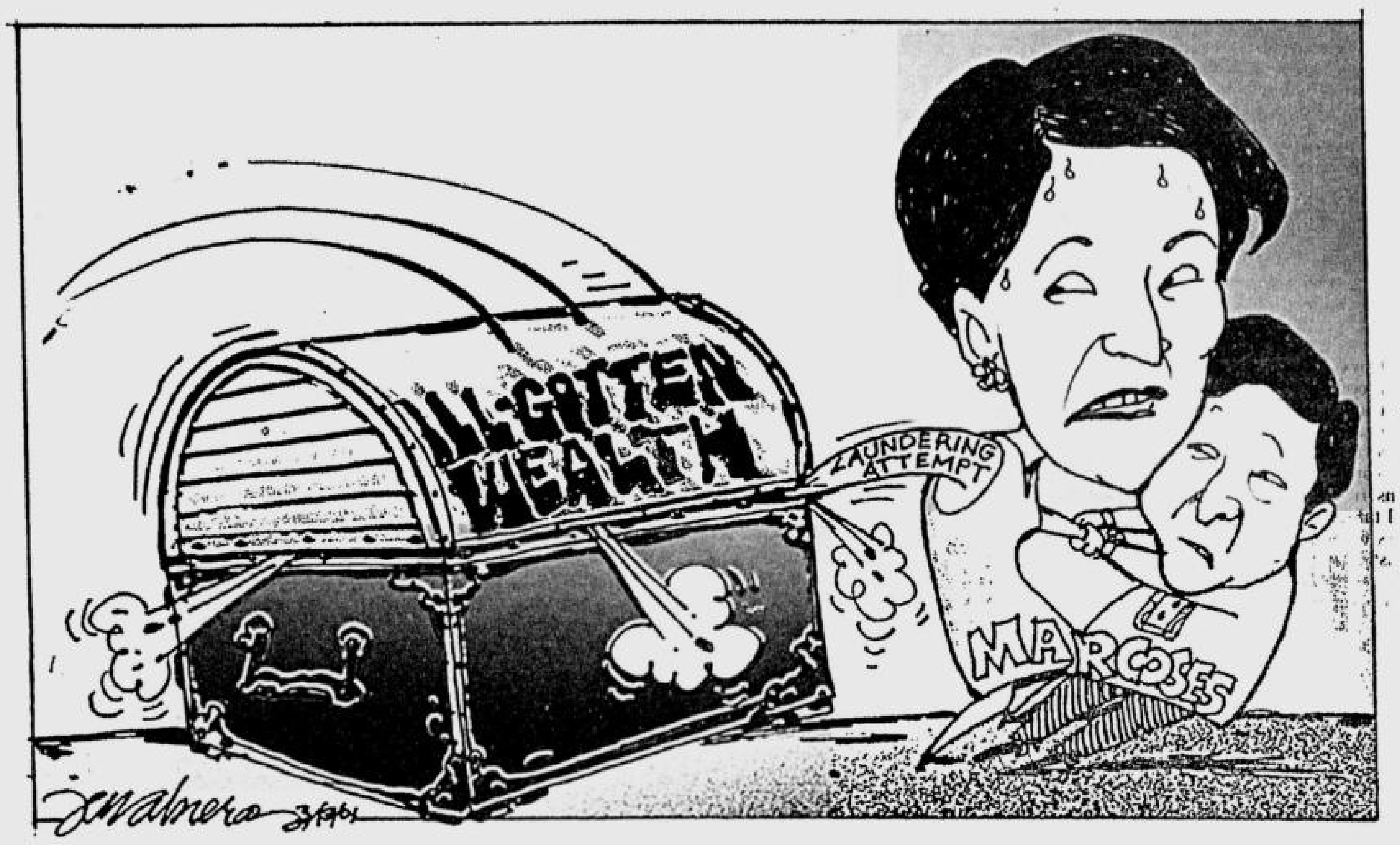
MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. last week suspended the payment of its concession fee to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to cut losses that it incurred principally because of the depreciation of the peso against the dollar between 1997 and 2000.

The force majeure notice was served to bring the matter up for arbitration. The MWSS board had earlier said that it had approved Maynilad's request but has delayed official action.

Maynilad is asking for an Automatic Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment. Its petition has not been acted upon. Malacañang is said to be frowning on the proposed water rate increase which could be a politically unpopular move.

Is there an alternative to increasing the water rates? One option is for Maynilad to give up and return the 25-year concession to the MWSS. But this would mean that the customers would suffer. This would bring back the water vendors' rates of about P150 per cubic meter, compared to Maynilad's P6.58 per cu. m. It would render water supply unreliable and limited. Water would be unsafe and unclean because of multiple handling by "aguadors" or water vendors.

People who are already reeling from the high prices of goods and services naturally oppose an increase in utility rates. But here it seems there is no alternative. Either you return to the old system or provide a CERA for Maynilad. (The CERA is similar to the currency rate adjustments in the PLDT and Meralco bills.) The very least the MWSS board can do now is to hear Maynilad's arguments and act on its petition speedily so that the public interest would not suffer.



DENR is a Jekyll-and-Hyde department

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HAVE you ever wondered why no Cabinet member has succeeded in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources? The reason is that the whole department is a contradiction. One of its main functions is to protect and preserve the environment; the other is to develop and even exploit the natural resources of that same environment.

These are two conflicting endeavors. How can the same man preserve that environment and at the same time exploit it? That is a Jekyll-and-Hyde situation. When there is a conflict between the two, the latter invariably wins because it makes a lot of money. Between preserving a forest and cutting down its trees, the latter always wins because there is so much money to be made from logging—both for the logger and for the unscrupulous employees of the DENR. As we can see, the environment is losing the battle.

Has it ever occurred to anyone that the solution is to split the DENR into two, with the environment portion separated from the natural resources part? Retain the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) but it is not necessary to create a Department of Environment. Better than that, create an Environment Protection Agency (EPA) under the Office of the President, like they have in the United States. That way, the EPA will be a notch higher than the DNR. The EPA would be directly under the president; its chief is a deputy of the president and he speaks with the voice of the president. In case of conflict between the EPA and the DNR, the former prevails. A conflict between two equal departments, on the other hand, would end in a stalemate.

The duties and functions of the heads of the two agencies would be clear to them. There would be no schizophrenia. And President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would not have a difficult time choosing the agency heads as she is now having in choosing a chief for the DENR.

There is no need for legislation to split the DENR into two, either. A simple executive order will do. And no need to hire additional personnel. The officials and employees of the DENR would be distributed between the two new agencies, depending on their functions.

Since the Macapagal administration is committed to reforms and to "new politics," this is the best time to do what is right and separate the Environment Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources. Before a single DENR secretary is appointed.

* * *

Here's one more proof that the Philippine environment is under siege: A senator is pushing for the construction of a highway in Batangas. Batangueños are opposing it because it would run through a forest and more than 3,000 trees would be massacred. So the highway is to be rerouted, but hundreds of trees would still be killed.

But that is not the most distasteful part. The senator is pressuring the Department of Public Work and Highways to build the highway because it would benefit the resort of the senator's spouse.

* * *

The DPWH is preparing to build this controversial highway but is dragging its feet to complete Congressional Avenue in Quezon City. Only 1.6 km. of the avenue remains to be completed but work has been suspended for many years already.

This road runs parallel to Commonwealth Avenue and it is needed to relieve the dreadful daily gridlock on the latter street. Commonwealth and Quezon Avenue are being widened and two interchanges, one on each avenue, will be constructed. Traffic would be infinitely worse once construction starts in earnest. Congressional Avenue should have been completed first so that vehicles would at least have an alternate route. But the priorities of the DPWH are skewed. Its priorities depend not on what is necessary but on who is pushing the project.

Even when the widening and interchanges of Commonwealth and Quezon Avenue are finished, they would hardly improve traffic but, on the contrary, worsen it. Why? Because Elliptical Road and the Tandang Sora flyover would serve as funnels where traffic would be concentrated. When completed, Commonwealth would be a six-lane avenue each way, for a total of 12 lanes. But the Tandang Sora flyover has only two lanes each way, and the service road below is eternally blocked with vehicles because government officials foolishly allowed it to be made into a jeepney terminal and a *talipapa*. Moreover, the traffic signal there has long been out of order and traffic enforcers hardly show up there.

On the other hand, Elliptical Road, which does not need any traffic signal, being a one-way rotunda, has six of them. Vehicles which used to flow smoothly around the rotunda, now have to stop six times. Even vehicles in the inside lane have to stop even if there is no need to.

Therefore, traffic will build up at the Tandang Sora flyover and at Elliptical Road. In the latter, traffic congestion is made worse by the shopping mall and the mini-*talipapa* in the Philcoa area.

A completed Congressional Avenue would greatly ease traffic here because it would absorb much of Commonwealth's vehicles and it would bypass Elliptical Road and Quezon Avenue and come out on Edsa. The road right of way is there waiting and residents of the subdivisions lining it are lobbying for its completion, but the DPWH has other things in mind. To be fair though, it is not the fault of Secretary Simeon Datumanong. He just assumed office. It was his predecessors who were remiss.

Meanwhile, squatters are multiplying on the road right of way, especially now that another election is coming up and politicians are coddling them. The answer is not to vote for these coddlers of squatters. The residents of the villages along Congressional Avenue have banded together to do exactly that: vote against the coddlers in the May elections.

Iniquity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE COMELEC says it's the law. The law says you can't register voters 120 days before elections. So sorry *na lang* to the 4.5 million youth who failed to register last December.

But not at all. The law is clear on one thing, too. Which is that a law that is hoisted 50 feet up on a pole so that people cannot read it is not a law at all. That is what the Comelec might as well have done with its proclamation marking Dec. 27 the deadline for registration of first-time voters. It did not spread the word, it did not make sure the people who were affected by it would learn about it. Only the relatives of Comelec officials did, and probably not even them.

That is not a law. That is just a piece of paper, no better than the one you find in what we so delicately call a "comfort room."

Nearly all the lawmakers in any case have already shown how easy it is to amend the law: the real one that bans registration 120 days before elections. All it takes, as Joker Arroyo points out, is a one-day special session of Congress before March 30, when the congressional campaign starts. And all it takes, as Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin points out, is less than P100 million. The government doesn't have to look far for it, it can just "dip into existing funds."

Of course, it is also very probably an attempt by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to score brownie points with the youth and stack the odds in favor of the People Power Coalition candidates, as several oppositionists and commentators have pointed out. But so what? Her motives notwithstanding, this is a vital piece of legislation, or amendment. Not passing it is an iniquity we may not allow to happen.

At the very least, we cannot turn our backs on 4.5 million voters. That is disfranchisement of criminal proportions. We've already committed a criminal act in disfranchising Filipinos overseas, who probably number as much, if not more, than the 4.5 million youth of voting age residing in the Philippines. Taken together, that is an enormous number of people we are taking the most fundamental right of citizenship from—more than a third of the voting population. That is plain unacceptable. Even if costs the world to register them, we have no choice but to do it. Elementary justice demands it. As it is, as the budget secretary herself says, it doesn't cost much.

While at this, is it too late to pass the law, along with amending the 120-day deadline of new voters, granting Filipinos overseas the vote? I can't see any possible objection to it on grounds of principle. The citizen's right to vote is not alienable—certainly not by living abroad. The only problem is logistics. But how hard can it be to register voters and count votes abroad? The NGOs there have already identified the mechanisms necessary for the enterprise and can set them up at a moment's notice. They've been campaigning for this for as long as God, and Filipino presidents, can remember. I do hope they push for this at this time, whether successfully or not, just to make sure this is the last time they are kept out in the cold. I did say before they have the leverage to bargain. They can—and should—refuse to remit money to a country that does not recognize them as citizens. No representation, no taxation.

More than their sheer number, the youth too, like the overseas community, has contributed monumentally in giving this country new hope. Quite literally, last month. It was the youth, as much as the overseas Filipinos, who made People Power II possible. That event is inconceivable without the students marching in the streets and camping out in front of the Senate in the rain and the heat, along with the activists, the NGOs, the people's organizations, to demand an end to a gangster state. Just as it is inconceivable without the Filipinos overseas, the nurses and maids and forklift operators in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Singapore, along with the doctors, engineers and teachers in America, Europe and Australia, making their outrage and hope for the future heard in the Internet. Theirs were powerful voices, which helped to sound the *tambuli* that brought down the walls of tyranny.

The most we can do is extol their heroism. The least we can do is give them the vote. It would be the height of ungratefulness to repay their sacrifices with indifference, or scorn. It would be the height of spitefulness to repay their altruism by denying them the vote.

Which brings me to the last point. More than justice, more than gratefulness, we would be fools not to value something so precious. Are we so rich we can afford to turn down an unmitigated blessing? Which is what 4.5 million in youth vote is: an unadulterated grace. That is one other thing the youth vote shares with the overseas vote: It improves the quality of the voting stock by leaps and bounds. Like the overseas vote, the youth vote is not prey to guns, goons and gold, the traditional bane of Philippine politics. It cannot be bought, any more than the vote of the professionals and skilled overseas Filipino workers abroad can be bought. It cannot be intimidated, any more than the intensely patriotic (absence does make the heart grown fonder) and well-informed Filipinos abroad (they probably follow the events here more religiously than we do) can be intimidated.

It is the idealistic vote.

Of course, we also cannot discount the usual weaknesses attributed to youth—impulsiveness, lack of maturity, impressionableness—which makes them prey to demagogues, if not to warlords, to people who seduce by word if not by money. I remember that Miriam Defensor-Santiago got the bulk of her votes from the youth in 1992, when she (mis)represented herself as the nemesis of corruption. I got several letters in the mail over the past months from people who were once young and hopeful and lived to be older and much disillusioned by that experience.

But all that is easily outweighed by the more formidable strengths of the youth, which are high-mindedness, a monumental capacity to think of others and an even more monumental capacity to do something for the nation. The last even at risk to their lives. It is from their ranks the people who unleashed the First Quarter Storm came from. It is from their ranks many of the people who went to the hills and fought Marcos came from. It is from their ranks many of the people who unleashed the first and second People Power came from. Of such stuff is heroism made. The youth is the hope of the motherland; Rizal was right about that.

They do not always have to die for the country to be so. They can always vote.

Students should help educate voters

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS the Comelec chair during the Aquino years, Ramon Felipe, pointed out, the residual standby power or authority of the Comelec dating to 1987 to adopt or adjust rules to meet any contingency is still very much around. Felipe has noted that in fact the poll body has in recent months used this standby power twice: to advance the period for nomination of official candidates and to extend the filing of certificates of candidacy.

What this tells us is that the special registration for the four million young voters can be done if the Comelec wills it. No need for a new law or special session of Congress. Certainly the May elections cannot be postponed as the date, every second Monday of May of an election year, is dictated by the Constitution. To postpone the elections we have to amend the charter.

* * *

New Comelec Chair, Fred Benipayo is under tremendous pressure from various quarters to heed the clamor for special registration, a truly unenviable position to be in. Benipayo is terribly afraid, however, that if the poll body agrees, the registration could foul up the preparations for the May elections. In other words, he thinks that if the poll body will take care of four million new voters it would mess up the prospects for the 36 million already registered. Part of the reason for the Comelec's state of unpreparedness is the bloody intramurals that have involved Commissioner Luz Tancangco as well as the change of leadership in midstream. There was also the late release of election funds.

* * *

Now assuming that special registration really can't be held, let's not lose heart. What can be done to minimize damage is to mobilize that vast army of disfranch d youths and get them out into the countryside and the squatter areas in the urban centers to conduct what Benipayo calls "an issues campaign" among the electorate. Benipayo was quoted as commenting on the immaturity and lack of discernment of many of our people, judging from the choices they have made in the past. To this we can only add, and how!

The young people, especially the college and university students, are in the best position to bring the current issues to the masses. Such an information campaign is specially needed among the D and E classes, who are among the least informed. To our students I say, get out and rescue our people from the bondage of ignorance. If you do this, you will do your country a tremendous service.

* * *

Some senatoric lates of the People Power Coalition have not the reason there seems to be residual pockets pathy around the country for the deposed President Estrada is that they don't understand too well that wrongdoing has to be punished, and that wrongdoing of a grand scale has to be meted out punishment on a grand scale as well. I myself have heard some citizens say that they see no need to punish the former president for plunder, a heinous crime according to our laws, when, by their reasoning, he already has been kicked out of power. As was evident in the reception President Macapagal got in Tondo last week, many from the marginalized sectors continue to believe Estrada was for the *masa*. Few of them understand how Erap used the people's pension funds in the SSS and GSIS in a criminal and reckless manner, by investing them in shaky ventures for his own profit. This was in unconscionable disregard of the welfare of those who are totally dependent on those pension funds.

* * *

It's sad to say that the less educated and informed remain governed largely by emotions and lack the ability to discern and analyze critically. This is because of poor education and the fact that the Erap administration knew how to manipulate the mass media, especially radio. Up to now Pwersa ng Masa candidates continue to peddle the lie that he was innocent of all the charges, despite the tons of documentary evidence and the testimony of former cronies. They are feeding off the people's ignorance. The Macapagal administration ought to use radio effectively, not for "propaganda" but to spread the truth.

* * *

There will be only 21 more stagings of "Miss Saigon" with its nearly all-Filipino cast and techno-theatrical spectacles at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Catch it at reduced prices, a special thank-you offer from the producers, before "Miss Saigon" becomes history here. Shows are nightly at 8 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays, with matinees at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in addition to the evening shows. From Manila, "Miss Saigon" will go to Hong Kong, opening there on May 25, and then Singapore. Most of the Filipinos in the cast here have been signed up for Hong Kong and Singapore, but it's best to catch them here since it's less expensive.

Playing uninterruptedly for the last 10 years to over 27 million viewers as of last year, the show is technically outstanding, in addition to showcasing the vast talents mainly of the Filipinos. It employs a fully computerized 8,700 pounds. Helicopter, a 28-foot statue of Ho Chi Minh; an 84-man scenic and electrical crew that manages 91 automated effects and 22 separate scene-shifts; and a 47-member cast to manage 375 costume changes.

* * *

There was quite a foul-up on the March lecture of the Gilmore Carmelites' Diamond Jubilee University Lecture Series, which this column wishes to correct, with profound apologies to all those who went to Miriam College last Wednesday, March 7. As to who's to blame for the foul-up, it's difficult to say. Suffice it to say that this fifth lecture, titled "St. Therese of Lisieux and St. John of the Cross—Two Doctors of the Church," will be delivered by Carmelite Fr. M . ano "Jun-Jun" Agruda, OCD, tomorrow, March I . at 10 a.m. at Miriam College in Katipunan, QC. Fathe Agruda is well-known in the religious lecture circuit and his talk should be very interesting.

* * *

St. Therese of Lisieux, the "Little Flower of Jesus," is perhaps the most popular saint to both the young and old in this country, especially after the recent visit of her venerated relics here. On the other hand, whenever we refer to the ordinary Filipino, we call him "Juan de la Cruz," after St. John of the Cross. As I wrote a week ago, many devotees of St. Therese cannot understand how this young 19th century French Carmelite saint could have acclaimed the great Spanish 16th century Carmelite mystic, St. John of the Cross, who lived over 300 years earlier, as her model and the "father of her soul." St. Therese professed total confidence in a most loving Father and cited St. John's Doctrine of the Cross as the "royal road" to perfection. Tomorrow, you will have a chance to understand this seeming paradox from Father Agruda's lecture.

An inspiring local executive

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SINCE the "Galing Pook" Awards were initiated more than 10 years ago, only four cities have made it to the "Hall of Fame." They are: Marikina, Puerto Princesa, Naga and San Carlos City.

The achievements of Mayors Bayani Fernando of Marikina, Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa and (former mayor) Jesse Robredo of Naga have been well-publicized and recognized, cited by local and international awards bodies apart from "Galing Pook," which is the premiere award for local government units and executives.

So what is a relatively unknown city like San Carlos in Negros Occidental and its mayor, Roger Debulgado, doing among such distinguished company? We found out the reason last Thursday, when we motored from Bacolod to San Carlos, the most northeasterly settlement on the occidental side of Negros Island, and found a city of almost unbelievable cleanliness, order and the unmistakable air of progress aborning. Actually, our party, including John Pangilinan, younger brother of senatorial candidate Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, traveled to San Carlos to attend the Women's Day celebration, spearheaded by Vicky Debulgado, Roger's dynamic wife who is running for mayor since her husband is completing his third term. But we found out that there is more to learn in San Carlos than we realized.

I remembered reading about a project that had won for San Carlos its fourth "Galing Pook," which involved a city-funded burial scheme for its poor residents. To expand the capacity of the cramped city cemetery, Mayor Debulgado thought up of a scheme where poor families could bury their dead for a very reasonable fee. The catch was that after five years, the family was committed to disinter the remains of their dead, then re-bury these beneath a tree planted in a forest reserve.

The project thus achieved two purposes: decongesting the public cemetery while meeting the burial needs of its citizens, and reforesting the mountainsides and ensuring the maintenance of the trees. "If your loved one is buried beneath a tree, you will not cut that tree, instead you will make sure that it continues to serve as a living memorial," Mayor Debulgado said.

* * *

THE MAYOR himself accompanied us first to the public cemetery, which looked like a smaller version of the fashionable "condominium-type" burial places in more expensive memorial parks, then drove us up to the hillsides where saplings await the first remains of those buried early in the scheme's operation.

I remembered the project from reading "Galing Pook's" souvenir program because it struck me as simple, practicable, yet with broad and lasting impact. That, it seems, is the hallmark of projects that the mayor, with his city council and assisted by his wife, have embarked on.

Another sample of Mayor Debulgado's far-seeing initiative is a bus terminal and public market that was built using local funds. The structure is modern and cost-efficient, including ample parking space and even an area for food stands.

Unfortunately, the structure, which could have already been generating income for San Carlos in the past few months, stands empty because the city council has yet to approve an ordinance on its operation. Apparently, the incumbent vice mayor, who is running against Vicky Debulgado, has chosen to block the project. Unfortunately, even for a local executive with such progressive tendencies as Roger Debulgado, the scourge of politics and politicking is still unavoidable.

* * *

HEARD and overheard.

A candidate belonging to the People Power Coalition yet still trailing in the surveys, approached one of the country's top radio stations to request coverage. The candidate was informed, though, that coverage was tied to certain "conditions," preferably in the millions.

When the candidate found out how much the radio station was charging, the candidate backed out. Other candidates, though, have not been so shy, nor so financially challenged. The first senatorial candidate to agree to the station's conditions, it's said, is a controversial former law enforcer belonging to the Puwersa ng Masa. This candidate reportedly paid out P5-6 million for "full coverage" by the network.

Over the weekend, former underlings and "loyalists" of former Secretary Ronnie Puno of the DILG were busy meeting and plotting in Cebu and Cavite. The Cebu meeting was supposedly set to map out post-electoral strategies in the Visayas and Mindanao. That in Cavite was for the "action" in Luzon. Puno, of course, is (in)famous for engineering the notorious "*dagdag-bawas*" scheme that supposedly made it possible for Fidel Ramos and Erap Estrada after him to capture the presidency and for losing senatorial candidates to make a sudden recovery.

Ironically, one of Puno's alleged top lieutenants in the present *dagdag-bawas* scheme is the husband of a reelectionist, a woman senator who claims she should have been president and not Ramos, were it not for the *dagdag-bawas* antics of the so-called "Sulo Group." These days, the madame senator has lost much of her luster, could that be the reason she's condoning Puno's plans?

* * *

WHEN you have time, drop by the Noritake Sale at the Mayfair Center in the Magallanes Commercial Center. I went there with my family, including my brother, his wife and my sister-in-law, and we all found bargains galore. On sale are not only "white" china, but even porcelain in various designs and colors. Export over-runs are also on sale.

One other incentive to drop by, aside from the bargains, is that part of the proceeds will go to benefit the women's cause. The sale goes on every day until 6 p.m. and lasts until the end of the month. Another way to celebrate Women's Month!

Names from the past

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME time in 1849, Governor Claveria decreed that all Filipinos had to choose a family name from a prepared list. Perhaps it was just too confusing, with everyone running around with first names only. I mean, how would you distinguish one Pedro from the other? However, it was also decreed that any Filipino descended from the original rajahs could keep his name. Thus Gatmaitan and Gatbonton from Pampanga, for instance, are old names dating from before the coming of the Spaniards.

Recently the chair, Jaime Laya, of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts referred to a folder from the National Archives that pertains to the family line of Lakandola in tracing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's lineage. Lakandola was the ruler of Tondo in 1571, a Tondo that extended all the way to Pampanga and Bulacan. After the defeat of the Filipinos in the Battle of Bankusay, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi exempted the descendents of Rajahs Matanda (who by the way was officially known as Rajah Laya and may well be the NCCA chair's ancestor), Soliman and Lakandola from paying taxes or working on public works projects.

In 1660 Gov. Sabiniano Manrique de Lara reiterated the order. This was formalized in a royal decree of 1751 by Fernando VI, King of Spain. But because nearly 200 years had elapsed, a census was ordered to discover just who were entitled to the exemptions.

Among the documents found in the National Archives is a 1758 certification from the parish priest of Arayat, Pampanga, Fr. Sebastian Moreno, stating that a certain Don Joseph Macapagal was baptized in 1729. He was the son of Don Juan Macapagal and Doña Maria Pascuala. Coincidentally the godfather was a certain Don Domingo Tuason. Joseph married Clara Concepcion. Laya pointed out that President Macapagal could be the grandchild of the gentleman 10 times removed, while her husband, whose mother was a Tuason, could be related to the godfather of Joseph.

Among the early names mentioned in the documents are those of Don Carlos Lacandola and his grandson Maestro del Campo Don Juan Macapagal y Reyes, Don Juan Lapira Macapagal y Salonga and his younger brother Don Joseph Lapira Macapagal, sons of Don Altaniel Macapagal, Don Zapno Macapagal and his siblings Don Manuel Lapira Macapagal, Don Miguel Lapira Macapagal, Don Joseph Lapira Macapagal, Don Julian Lapira Macapagal, Doña Bernarda Lapira Macapagal and Don Vicente Lapira Macapagal. There ware also two brothers, Don Gaspar Lapira Macapagal and Don Salvador Lapira Macapagal, children of Don Eugenio Lapira Macapagal and his wife Doña Escolastica Benita Macapagal, all of Arayat.

The file was kept current up to 1885, surviving the natural and man-made calamities that bedevil the poor Filipinos (not the least of which are the politicians). It would be great if the government finally recognized the importance of archival material and the need of the National Archives for a home of its own where the documents can be properly preserved. Some day more Filipinos may wish to delve into their ancestry.

Among the original rajahs at the time of Legaspi's arrival, only Lakandola's descendents are more commonly known. What happened to the descendents of the other rajahs? There was Martin Panga, who was the governor of Tondo in 1587, and his first cousin Magat Salamat. There was Agustin Manuguit and Geronimo Bassi. Chief of Bangos was a man called Luis Balaya, and his nephews were Agustin Lea and Alonso Digma. Friends of Manuguit were Phelipe Salalila and Luis Amanicalao (translated it would mean father of Calao or Kalaw?). And there was Calao himself and Phelipe Salonga.

When Magat traveled to Calamianes and Borneo to enlist help for a planned attack on the Spaniards, a certain Joan Banal accompanied him. They passed through Cuyo where the chief Sumaelob was persuaded to join them.

In Bulacan was another chief named Estevan Taes. There was Omaghicon in Navotas, Pedro Balinguit in Pandacan and Pitogan in Tondo, Phelipe Amarlangagui of Catangalan, Daulat of a village called Castilla, Joan Basi of Taguig, Dionisio Capolo of Candaba, and Francisco Acta also of Tondo.

Surely these men had families, but nothing more is heard of them and their descendents. It is true that further information could exist in church records of births, marriages and deaths and the archives of the *arsobispado* in Intramuros are pretty well preserved.

Going back to the Lakandola-Macapagal connection, Laya suggests that "government would have issued some certification to those entitled to tax and forced labor exemptions and indeed some families have been reported as once (or still) possessing same." Is it possible that some other families may also have similar records?

So perhaps it is not so farfetched that some of these old rajahs might still have descendents among us. On the other hand, some of these chiefs were exiled to Mexico as punishment for their role in the conspiracy. Among them were Pedro Balinguit of Pandacan and Pitongan of Tondo. Did these men remain in Nueva España after they had served their sentence or did they return to the Philippines?

A cool way out

YOUNGBLOOD

Rachelle L. Bascara

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

VODKA. Tequila. Bloody Mary. Screwdriver. Beer. Gilbey's. If the budget runs low, there is always *cuatro cantos* (the Ginebra four by four).

I am one of those "*gimmickeras*." I go to clubs, bars and discos. I stay out until the wee hours of the morning. I've been smoking cigarettes since I was 14. And I also attend parties where people drink to death.

But I don't like drinking. Sure I can easily handle a bottle of Blue Ice or Mule. I can still stand straight after two shots of vodka. But I really don't like alcohol. I don't like the taste of it, and I don't like the smell of it. I've gone through the process of trying to be cool and drinking to the point where my friends' would compliment me by saying, "*Tibay mo! Lakas mo uminom!*" My usual reaction to that would be an enigmatic smile and a very ungraceful rush to the bathroom.

I especially hate, hate, hate the feeling when I have drunk too much and I start throwing up. For those of you who have already experienced this and are still drinking, better check if your brains are still functioning properly. For any of you (if there is any of you) who haven't experienced throwing up after drinking too much, I'll try to give you a good idea of how it feels:

You'll feel dizzy and even though you are awake, you're almost half unconscious because things are so hazy. You'll feel your stomach rebelling against you. If you're lucky, you'll make it to the bathroom and you'll be able to properly position yourself on the toilet bowl. If you're half-lucky, you'll have the privilege of throwing up where no one can see you.

Then you start to puke. You taste the food that you already ate that's supposedly being digested in your stomach to be emitted by your rear end. You'll throw up till there's nothing more to throw up. And that's the worst part because you still desperately want to throw up.

Your head is throbbing like crazy. Your face feels two inches thicker. Your breath stinks and your internal organs seem to be having a rain dance or something. And if that's not enough, you look at yourself in the mirror and you simply look like hell.

Wow *pare*, you're drunk. Cool *mo naman*! So many times I have tried to get used to the taste of beer. They say that you won't like it at first, but once you get over the bitter taste of it, you would like it. So I tried and tried and tried. And there were times that I puked not because of having too much to drink but because of the taste of it.

When you really think about it, it doesn't make sense. You force yourself to drink something whose taste and smell you don't like (that's how it always is for beginners), but aren't you supposed to be partying to have a good time?

I've been to parties where saying, "Sorry, I don't drink," doesn't work. I've thrown up on many different occasions and places: the toilet, the street, inside cars, under the table, on my clothes, on other people's clothes. So now I am finally and officially announcing that I am through with alcohol.

I have found other things to do when others are drinking. Like being the *tagay* girl. Or talking to someone who's already drunk. Better yet, I take advantage of my crush when he's already drunk. So now, whenever I find myself in drink-to-death parties, I don't drink.

It's not that the sorry-I-don't-drink statement finally worked. Trust me, it never did and it never will. Don't make up stories about being allergic—that's a lame excuse. It is in these parties that you have to know, more than anything else, that no one can, should or have the right to make you do something you don't want to. And knowing the party scene nowadays, I'm not just talking about alcohol here. Stand up for yourself—that's my idea of perfect cool.

And by the way, did I mention that my dad's an alcoholic? But that's a different story.

Rachelle L. Bascara, 17, is an organizational communication freshman at the University of the Philippines Manila.

The Scarlet Pimplenel

Renelaine P. Bontol

ONCE, I was blemish-free. Now, I'm a pimple factory.

You know that line in "Mulan" where Mushu exclaims that the Huns popped out of the snow, "like daisies"? Well, that's similar to the way my pimples popped out. They began crawling out in my face at the start of summer 2000.

There have been some rich and varied descriptions of the lovely masses that have taken shelter on my face. One friend appropriately calls them "volcanic eruptions." They are like exploding earth, spewing lava.

The same friend (she happens to be very creative, not to mention insensitive), also calls my pimples "multiple lesions," which is also quite appropriate since my face does resemble a wound-infested zone.

I refer to them as my "Linda Blair" look, and I'm not talking about the sweet, angel-faced version. The devil-possessed, appalling, hair-raising version in "The Exorcist" is the one I'm talking about.

My life has been disrupted by these little demons. I cringe every time I look in the mirror.

I used to love sleeping on my stomach, face down on my bed, but now that's impossible.

I have just about lost patience with my mother, who screams, "Don't touch it!" every time my germ-infested hand comes in close proximity to my face.

It's amazing how you practically worship clear skin when your face has become a rice field. I used to take my flawless, *morena* skin for granted until this episode with pimples.

My cousin, who also had a pimple attack (only she called it "hormonal imbalance"), once predicted that it would happen to me. I just laughed it off in disbelief. Now, I can just swallow my, uh, laughter.

After a few months, the little fiends on my face were still incessantly and alternately sprouting out. I was mortified when an acquaintance asked in complete sincerity whether I had chicken pox. Right there and then, I decided I couldn't ignore my pimples anymore. It was time to exit from the denial stage. Everyone else cared but me.

I sought dermatological advice, one that I'd steadfastly evaded before because I shudder at the extra expense. But then I was desperate, and I needed professional help.

He gave me a bunch of medications. Erythromycin, Benzyl Peroxide, Hydroquinone and Retinoic Acid became as much a part of my daily ritual as bathing.

He warned me that my skin would react, of course, and it did indeed: my face started to peel. It was sloughing off and was morphing into a Zone of Hyperemia; my face was scarlet while the rest of me was *morena*.

After spending a few thousand pesos and after months of dedicated treatment, there has been some improvement in the state of my face. I can now look in the mirror without asking that lightning to strike the residents on my face.

Renelaine P. Bontol, 20, is a fourth-year physical therapy student in Cebu City.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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Raising false hopes only worsens conflict

LETTERS

THE STATEMENT of Jesus Dureza, a member of the government panel, about a "breakthrough" in peace efforts after contact was reestablished with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is noteworthy. It reinforces President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that peace in Mindanao "(is) less expensive than supporting an all-out war." Most of all, this breakthrough is manifested in the withdrawal of criminal charges against Salamat and five others for the bombings in Metro Manila last Dec. 30, 2000, and the suspension of military operation against the MILF, although sporadic clashes continue to occur.

However, a review of the peace process in Mindanao since the 1970s reveals that mere raising of hope does not solve the problem. Unless hope is coupled with a correct vision, the right formula for peace and unwavering political will to implement a peace agreement, it would be better for the government panel to talk peace with prudence and sobriety. Big words create unmitigated hope and heighten expectation among the rebels and war victims. If these are unfulfilled, they cause frustration and fuel aggression.

In the book "Why Men Rebel," Ted Gurr shows that failure to meet high expectations has far-reaching consequences on those who rebel. They are reactivated, remotivated and even repoliticized. If their hope remains unrealized they could be more belligerent than before.

Moro history is replete with stories of how Muslims in the 20th century were made to hope by the government without guarantee of resolving the "Mindanao conflict." It is time for this new administration to get rid of the past administrations' vanity in issuing big words and raising the hope of Muslims, that are mostly unfulfilled. Instead, the Macapagal administration must come up immediately with a "real" formula of peace.—**JULKIPLI M. WADI, Institute of Islamic Studies, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

'Force of Freedom Flight'

YOUR article on the role of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the Philippine Air Force, in People Power II titled "Go Count the People" was interesting, although you presented data which tend to put the Air Force in a different light.

To begin with, Major General Yap was not one of those who flew the F-5 on Jan. 20, 2001, near noontime. He was in Villamor Air Base, assisting the commanding general of the Air Force, Lt. Gen. Benjamin P Defensor, in mapping out contingency measures in view of the unraveling developments. The pilots of the F-5s were Maj. Gilbert Bartolome and Capt. Luis Gonzaga.

Both sorties of the F-5s and MG-520s were never part of Oplan "Go Count the People," which the Air Force was not party to. The orders to fly the F-5s came from General Defensor himself, to show who had control of the air. He had at that time convened the battle staff and he named the flight of those F-5s the "Force of Freedom Flight." It had nothing to do with General Espinosa.

The Armed Forces chief of staff was informed of the flight beforehand.

Your front-page article gave the impression that Espinosa had people operating within the Air Force within specified schedules to subvert the government, and that disunity was strong in the Air Force. The truth of the matter is that the whole Air Force stood united behind General Defensor. The smallest reports on attempts to break the discipline within the Air Force were reported directly to him by the commanders. Nothing flew or moved without his orders particularly during the week of Edsa II.

The statement that Colonel Dimal was sacked because of his activities is not correct. This officer was in no position and had no capability to control any Air Force air asset or personnel because he has been, since the last half of 2000, a student of the Joint Command and Staff College, under General Espinosa, long before Defensor became the Air Force chief. He is not on "floating" status. He simply had nothing to do with the operations of the Air Force at that time.

Also, General Yap did not initiate the movement of the MG-520s from Sangley to Villamor Air Base. Those helicopters were moved in as early as Jan. 15 as close air support aircraft on alert just in case the communist terrorists took advantage of the unwieldy situation and started something. This contingency measure, requested by Defensor, was approved by the Armed Forces chief of staff. Later, these choppers formed part of Joint Task Force NCR, which was activated at midnight on Jan. 16, 2001.

These were the actual events in the Air Force that transpired, before, during and after Jan. 19 that helped give birth to our new government.—**LINO HORACIO LAPID, colonel, Public Information Officer, Philippine Air Force, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Headquarters Philippine Air Force, Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

Using the death penalty law for blackmail

ARMIN P. Adina of the PDI research department wrote last March 2, in "Whatever happened to…?" about the murder of Ian Pike who was shot in the head in Malabon. His Filipino wife, Lucille Santarina, got a life sentence, not death. She was ordered to pay P50,000. This does not seem to be a very heavy monetary penalty for a man's life.

So, what happened to Australian Wesley Prentice, who was the victim of a fake rape charge made by people who were out to extort money from the Angeles City hotel owner? His case occupied much of my time over recent months. He has been acquitted, and wrote to me:

"Just a note to thank you for the Scotch, which will be kept for the baptism on April 27, 2001. This will be a combined baptismal and birthday party of my beautiful and dedicated Filipino wife. I also thank you for the write-ups on my case, etc. The end cost was in fact over P4 million with A$96,000 coming from Australia. It has had a disastrous impact on my life…I hope this doesn't happen to anyone else, it's a very demoralizing and depressing experience to say nothing of the danger of losing your life…"

There has been no government prosecution for perjury. So, this flaw in the law allows blackmail when the penalty for not paying is a death sentence, which is legalized murder. The real criminals go scot free.—**EARL K. WILKINSON, Makati City**

Oversight or portent of 'dagdag-bawas'?

"ON THE TICKET are reelectionist Senators Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier and Sergio Osmeña III; economist Solita Monsod, former internal revenue commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, lawyer Francis Pangilinan, Representatives Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Manuel Villar and Ernesto Herrera; and former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan."

While the story was headlined "GMA asks 'Kabalens' to vote 13-0," the list contained only 12 names. Not mentioned was one candidate whose consistent adherence to the cause of nationalism and good governance makes it imperative that we bring him back to the Senate: Quezon Rep. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada, a former senator and one of the House prosecutors in the recent impeachment trial.

I hope this is just an instance of faulty arithmetic or proofreader oversight, and not an early case of *dagdag-bawas*.—**JOSE F. LACABA, Barangay South Triangle, Quezon City**

Is gov't working on an 'arrangement' with Cojuangco?

WE read with great concern and alarm your news report which seems to show that the Macapagal administration is wavering on the issue of the recovery of the coconut levy fund and the levy-funded assets ("Cojuangco seen keeping SMC post," PDI 2/28/01). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the government does not have enough shares to elect a new (SMC) chair. Instead, the report said, the government might just elect a new vice chair.

We hope that this does not reflect a turnaround in the government's position that the coconut levy fund rightfully belongs to the small coconut farmers and farm workers who were forced by the Marcos regime to contribute to the levy fund from their hard-earned but meager income. We are alarmed that this might signal that the administration is now more inclined to enter into a compromise and an "arrangement" with SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, instead of pursuing justice for the small coconut farmers.

Our concern was further increased by another news report that the Lakas-NUCD had chosen Cojuangco's son as its congressional candidate in Pangasinan.

The government (through the coconut levy funds, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System) controls 43 percent of SMC shares while Cojuangco presently controls only 20 percent. We find it hard to believe that the government, if it really wants to, cannot get the required votes to replace Cojuangco with someone who not only has the managerial capability but also the integrity to protect and promote the welfare of the small coconut farmers and farm workers.

If it wishes to, the government has a lot of persuasive powers that it can use.—**VICENTE A. FABE, national chairperson, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka, Rm. 202 Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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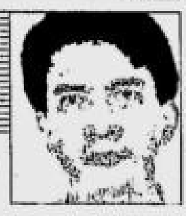
Donsol's corner of the world

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

IT'S the time of the year when I do the field school with graduating anthropology students from the University of the Philippines.

This year we did our field school in Donsol, Sorsogon, a town INQUIRER readers are familiar with because of their whale sharks or *butanding*. We never got to see the butanding, but never mind because we got to see a lot more from one of those strategic street corners that every small town has, that corner where the national highway runs through one of the town's main streets, usually around the town plaza.

One of those corners became home to the field school because of its two lodging houses conveniently located across each other, their rooms just enough for the 30 students. Tita Els Santiago, a retired school teacher, owns one of them and, I think, she grew a few years younger with her new brood of grandchildren. A young couple, Andrew and Baby Hernandez, owns the other, the ground floor of which they had converted into a store. For a month, that corner with its two lodging houses and store became our window to Donsol and the world.

Life begins to stir at this corner even before dawn as tricycles and buses begin to roar by. Hungry? Around the corner is a bakery, where you can get your *pan de sal, pan española* or *pan de coco*. No, they don't have *pan de Nora* (it's got a raisin, like Ate Guy's mole) but you can get one at the market, which is further down the road.

The first bus out of town passes through a bit past five in the morning, and after that, the others follow every half hour or so, going off or coming in from other towns in Sorsogon, Albay or Manila. The buses often stop at this corner and most of the time their passengers, doing routine travel, get on or off uneventfully. But occasionally you catch more emotional welcomes or goodby

The street scenes change all day, but the most lively times are early in the morning, around noon and late in the afternoon when you get troops of students walking by or biking. I've wondered what it will be like 10 years from now, and I can only hope that people continue to use more bicycles instead of switching to scooters or cars.

For many of the children, the corner store is a world in itself. It is an amazing store, a kind of little supermarket that sells everything. Hanging like fiesta buntings are the colorful sachets of shampoos, detergent, flavored powder for drinks, instant coffee, and, get hold of yourselves, Oreo cookies and Downey fabric softener. The wall shelves stock instant noodles and canned goods and lots of different catsups and sauces, including (did you know this?) Mang Tomas' *lechon* sauce reinvented as Mang Tomas' All-Purpose Sauce.

It's the ice cream that draws in the kids, little tykes who queue up with a bit of jostling, fearful, I think, that the supply will run out. Other wide-eyed kids peer into the store, checking on the other little delights of toys and trinkets and snack items.

It isn't just the kids who get fun items from the store. One day a burly, shirtless man walked past us displaying a wicked-looking tattoo. One of Mr. Macho's friends called out, complimenting him on his tattoo and got a sheepish smile as a reply. Then I realized the tattoo looked familiar: it was strangely similar to one of the stick-ons hanging in a plastic packet in Ate Baby's store.

The corner store tells us of how efficient the private sector can be when it comes to penetrating rural markets and reshaping consumer preferences. There are all kinds of brands of soft drinks, cigarettes, liquor, ice cream products—even frozen hotdogs and dressed chicken. If only the government could be as good in delivering health products and services, or books, but that's for another column.

My students groaned when I first announced their cell phones would be useless in Donsol, but they cheered when they learned there are a few payphones, one of which is at Ate Baby's corner store. At night, when the rates are cheaper (something like P4 a minute to call Manila), you have to wait in line for your turn. Ate Baby's has even come up with a system, giving out numbers to people who want to call. Last Valentine's there were 28 people waiting to call. I suspect at least half of them were my students.

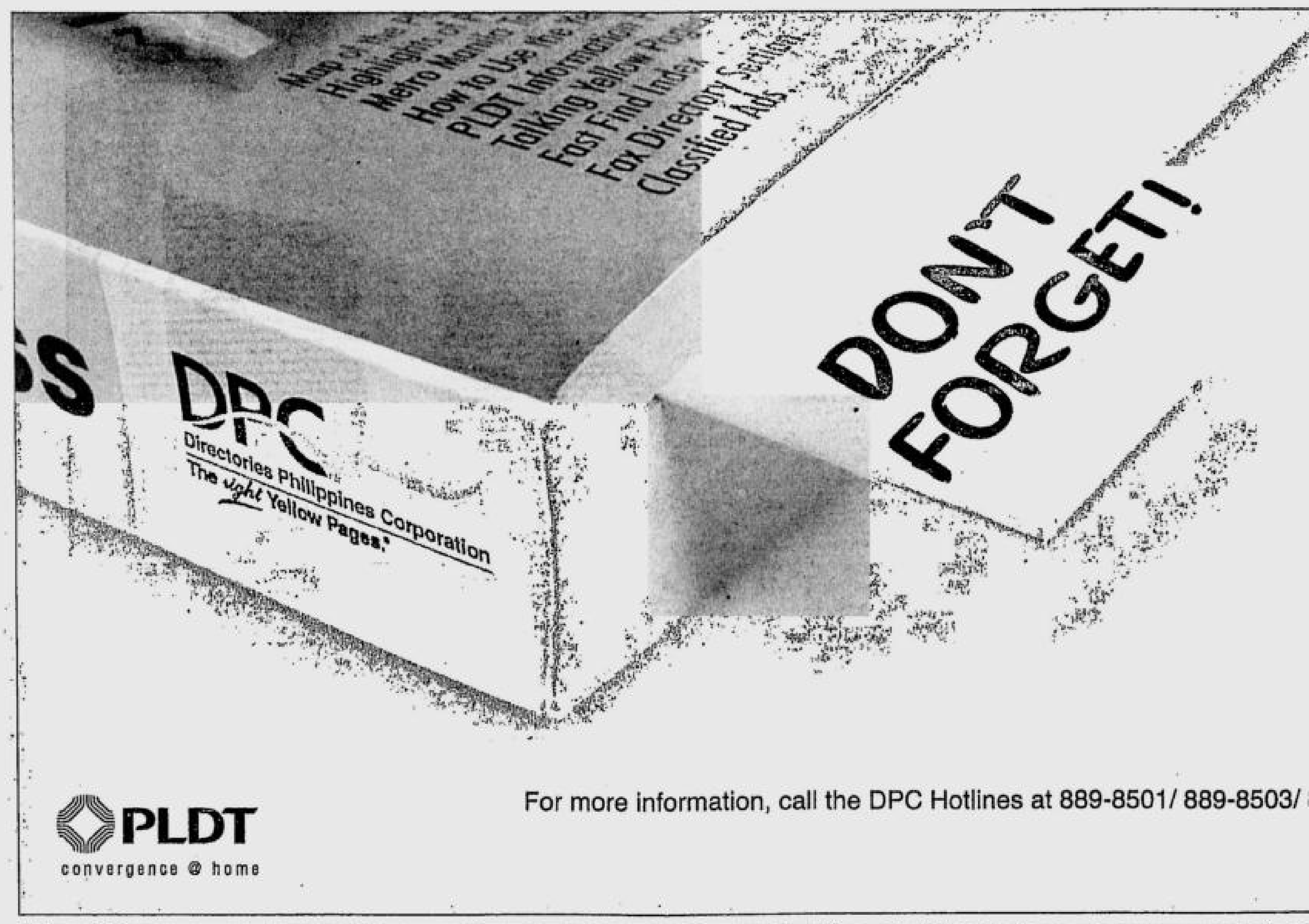
The sets change even through the night. People mill around, sometimes sitting on the sidewalk with their drinks, chatting away mostly in Bikolano but occasionally you catch Tagalog (Ate Baby herself is from Batangas), Waray, Cebuano, even Ilokano.

Later into the night there are still vendors plying their trade. A bike passes by, the rider calling out, "*Balut*!" Another biking vendor hawks peanuts, and sometimes stops to play billiards around the corner, paying with the peanuts if he runs out of cash.

People seem to move around endlessly: alone, in pairs or as large *barkadas*. If you watch and listen carefully, you'll catch bits and pieces of young love, betrayed by a glance that lingers a bit longer than usual, or in the nervous laughter, or voices raised a few decibels higher, the better to be heard and to be seen.

Eventually the store closes and people call it a day. Donsol's corner to the world sleeps and the kids, little and grown up ones, dream about the ice cream and trinkets, about phone calls and young and not-so-young love, about being home, or going home.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org



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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Indon students urge Wahid to quit as protests mount

JAKARTA—Scores of police yesterday guarded the state palace as students mounted street protests and called on president Abdurrahman Wahid to quit.

About 300 demonstrators peacefully gathered in front of the white-columned residence and thousands more were assembling at several campuses in Jakarta.

Organizers of yesterday's protests had originally called for the staging of a national strike. However, most offices and stores in the capital were open as usual.

The Jakarta Post newspaper quoted the city's Police Chief Inspector Gen. Mulyono Sulaiman as saying he had deployed up to 9,000 officers to handle the situation.

Protest organizers promised that the demonstrations would be peaceful.

Other campus groups said they were opposed to yesterday's protests and said rival student factions were being manipulated by Wahid's political opponents.

Wahid, who came to office 17 months ago as Indonesia's first freely chosen president in more than four decades, has been resisting increasing demands that he resign over a range of political, economic and social crises that have triggered communal violence in several troublespots.

The parliament has threatened to impeach Wahid over two multimillion-dollar corruption scandals and many lawmakers have also openly criticized him for not fixing the country's many problems.

They have also been angered by his erratic administrative style and by the fact that he has cut off powerful interest groups in the political elite and the armed forces from long-standing sources of government patronage that they enjoyed under former dictator Suharto.

Suharto was forced to resign in 1998 after widespread student protests.

The pressure on Wahid rose in recent weeks following the slaughter of more than 450 migrant settlers at the hands of indigenous Dayak tribesmen on the island of Borneo.

The rise in bloodshed there and in other restive provinces as well as political infighting in Jakarta has resulted in a big slide in the currency, the rupiah. Analysts warn that Indonesia's chances of economic recovery are under threat.

On Sunday the government's top security minister Gen. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono warned that Indonesian state, a sprawling collection of 17,000 islands and 210 million people, could collapse if its security problems were not quickly resolved.

"The uncertainty will have a severe impact not only on the political front, but also in our economic, social and security fields," he was quoted by the Post as saying.

AP

AS INDONESIAN students mount protests to call on President Abdurrahman Wahid at the presidential palace in Jakarta, about 5,000 other students take to the streets to increase pressure for the ouster of the president. REUTERS

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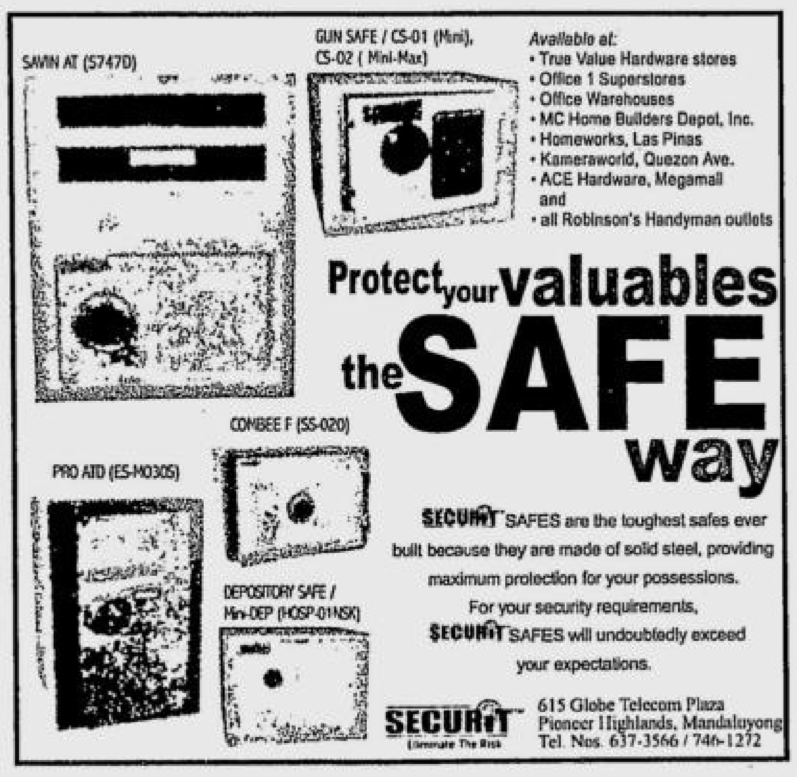
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MEXICAN REBELS

Zapatistas march into heart of city

MEXICO CITY—Fulfilling a vow in their declaration of war seven years ago, Mexico's masked Zapatista rebels led a march into the heart of Mexico City on Sunday to press their demands for Indian rights.

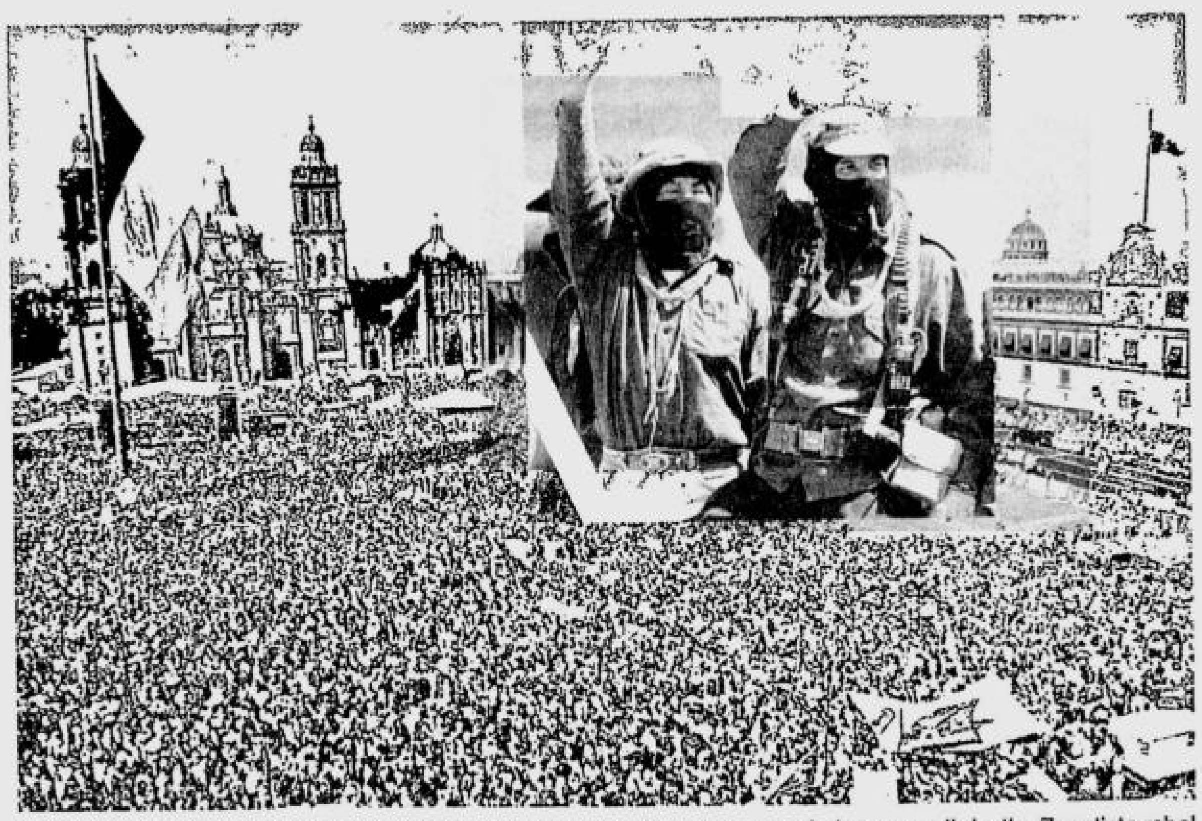
Winding up a two-week tour of southern Mexico, the Zapatista leaders became the first rebel group to openly ride into the city since revolutionary leaders Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata—the rebels' namesake—did it in 1914.

The 23 rebel commanders and their military leader, Subcomandante Marcos, rode a flatbed truck into the city's main plaza, to chants of "You are not alone" from an estimated 75,000 cheering supporters gathered to press their demand for approval of an Indian rights law currently before congress.

"Once again, the federal government and congress have a chance to choose between peace with dignity and justice, or war against the indigenous peoples," said rebel leader Comandante David.

Marcos made a poetic appeal for a multiethnic Mexico, and criticized President Vicente Fox, who has gone further than any of his predecessors to meet the Zapatistas' demands.

"I'm sure the guy who works in the office behind me is applauding wildly," Marcos said, referring to the National Palace, which dominates on side of the plaza. "It's time for Fox to see us, to listen . . . to one thing: constitutional recognition for Indian rights and culture."


TENS of thousands fill Mexico City's Zocalo or main square where they attended a mass rally by the Zapatista rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos(inset, right, with Zapatista leader Tacho) and 23 of his commanders to conclude their 15-day caravan through 13 Mexican states. The Zapatistas are due to begin formal peace talks with government peace commission. AP/REUTERS

Marcos said the Zapatistas were a different brand of rebels; like the original army of peasants led by Zapata, "we do not aspire to hold power," Marcos said.

He indirectly referred to Fox as "he who pretends to be sensitive and prudent, but who engages in purchase and sale." Rebel leader Comandante Esther was more direct in attacking Fox's promises to give Mexicans a better standard of living.

"We don't want a little business, a compact car and a television," Esther said, repeating one of Fox's frequent phrase. "We want recognition of our rights."

Both Fox and the Zapatista National Liberation Army have staked prestige on the event. The rebels hope to win support as a political force. Fox hopes that will help him achieve what two previous presidents failed to do: convince the rebels to abandon their guns.

Their entrance to Mexico City was not quite as the rebels envisioned it when they shocked the world by emerging from obscurity to seize several cities in the southern state of Chiapas on Jan. 1, 1994, the very day Mexican officials were celebrating enactment the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Instead of "conquering the Mexican federal army," the goal they set in their declaration of war, the Zapatistas have found themselves touring the country in a bus caravan protected by federal police.

Instead of "liberated" Mexican civilians, they find themselves accompanied by hundreds of foreign supporters who see the Zapatistas as exemplars of the struggle against the global financial system.

The "evil government" against which they rebelled was toppled last year: not by armed leftist insurgents but peacefully, at the polls, by Fox, a former Coca Cola executive whose pro-market leanings the leftist rebels deeply distrust.

Fox's welcome of the Zapatista march has been so effusive that Marcos has accused him of trying to turn it into a Fox march.

"Welcome Subcomandante Marcos, welcome to the Zapatistas, welcome to the political arena, the arena of discussion of ideas," Fox said in a radio address on Saturday. Fox said the rebel tour was proof of the new democracy ushered in when he broke the former ruling party's 71-year grip on the presidency. *AP*

Secret human cloning tests spark outrage

SYDNEY—A report yesterday that secret human cloning experiments were conducted in Australia drew protests from a prominent church group.

However, the government denied human cloning was under way, saying the work had involved hybrid experiments.

In 1999, a company implanted a cell containing human DNA into an empty pig's egg, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported yesterday.

The resulting cloned embryo survived for 32 days before it was terminated, the newspaper said.

The report comes just days after a group of American and Italian scientists said that they plan to produce the world's first cloned baby by the end of the year.

The Telegraph quoted bioethicist Nick Tonti-Filippini as saying the baby-cloning project was one step further than the Australian experiment.

"It has never been publicly admitted that we have already done human cloning in Australia," Tonti-Filippini said. "To clone a whole human is only taking it one step further."

Cloning a human being is illegal in Australia and carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment.

The Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (IOGTR) rejected yesterday Tonti-Filippini's claims.

The IOGTR said the procedure was not cloning, but more like making a human hybrid.

Federal Health Minister Michael Wooldridge's office yesterday said the government had no plans for an official investigation of the reported secret cloning.

The government could look at the claim but it was up to police to decide whether or not the matter needed investigation, his office said.

"The health minister's made the law. It's up to other people to police it," a spokesperson said on condition of anonymity. *AP*

Mori bowing out the way he came in: with secret backroom deals

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's term in office is ending the way it started: with secretive back-room dealings, evasive official statements and accusations of deception by the opposition.

Just two days after he reportedly signaled his intention to resign to ruling party leaders, Mori told Parliament on Monday that he never said he would quit, then refused to talk about it anymore.

While Mori's protestations were not seen as a flat denial that he would step down within a month, his comments were a grim measure of the confusion and secrecy of Japan's political leadership.

"The nation simply can't understand why this is happening behind closed doors," Yasuko Takemura, of the Democratic Party, the largest opposition group, told Mori. "Are you concerned about the people at all?"

Mori would seem to have little choice but to step down. His support ratings are below 10 percent and his one-year term has been marked by a constant stream of scandals and verbal and political missteps.

The premier has been unpopular since taking office in April. He was picked at a closed-door meeting of LDP powerbrokers after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke. *AP*

JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori (left) listens to an opposition member's question with Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, a former prime minister, during budget committee meeting, March 12. REUTERS

Giant Buddhas destroyed, say int'l workers

ISLAMABAD—The Taliban religious militia has now completely demolished two giant statues of Buddha hewn from a cliff face in central Afghanistan, international aid workers said Sunday, despite desperate pleas from abroad to spare the third- and fifth-century relics.

The destruction was ordered late last month by the Taliban, hardline Muslims who rule most of Afghanistan and say statues are idolatrous. Despite the international outcry, the Taliban appeared Sunday to have obliterated both statues, the taller of which was believed to be the world's tallest standing Buddha.

Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil told UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during a meeting Sunday in neighboring Pakistan that there was nothing left of the statues, according to an international aid worker who attended the talks.

At a news conference after the talks, Annan refused to confirm the total destruction of the Buddhas, but said Muttawakil had told him "all the moveable statues have been destroyed," referring to smaller Buddhist monuments.

The destruction of the two giant Buddhas was corroborated by Taliban officials in southern Afghanistan and by an aid worker who said his information came from witnesses in the area.

The same aid worker said the remains of the giant statues were rubble at the foot of the mountain where they had stood for centuries. He also said that the Taliban's defense minister oversaw the destruction of the two mountain carvings.

"The destruction was professionally done," he said, with the larger of the two statues destroyed on Thursday with the use of explosives. The smaller one was reduced to rubble on Friday. *AP*

Japanese captain of sunken sub in Hawaii for probe

HONOLULU—The captain of a sunken Japanese fishing boat has arrived in Honolulu to testify before the Navy court of inquiry investigating USS Greenville's responsibility in the fatal accident.

Hisao Onishi, 58, who arrived Sunday, was to testify later this week what happened on Feb. 9, when his 499-ton boat carrying 35 people was rammed by USS Greenville demonstrating an emergency surfacing for 16 civilian guests.

The US Navy requested his testimony, and Onishi was also expected to give his views on the US sub's rescue operations.

Onishi's Ehime Maru sank within minutes after the collision. Nine people, including four students, were never found.

The hearing is aimed at examining the actions of the Greenville's top officers: Cmdr. Scott Waddle, his second-in-command, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer, and the officer of the deck, Lt. j.g. Michael Coen.

Also Sunday, four relatives of the two missing crewmen—Toshimichi Furuya, 47, and Hiroshi Nishida, 49—accompanied Onishi to hear the court of inquiry which was resuming Monday after the weekend recess.

Meanwhile, two relatives left Honolulu to return to their home in Uwajima in southwestern Japan after attending the first week of inquiry sessions. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, March 13, 2001
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Is 1:10, 16-20**
Gospel: **Mt 23:1-12**

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sat on the seat of Moses. So you shall do and observe all they say, but do not do as they do, for they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything in order to be seen by people; so they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace and being called 'Master' by the people.

But you, do not let yourselves be called *Master* because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth *Father*, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called *leader*, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary

It has already been asserted for some time that it is teachers who first do what they teach are those more readily listened to by a captive audience. Charlatans, even very pious ones, abound in today's world including the church enclaves. Men and women of our age hanker less for bombastic utterances than for prophetic deeds, which clearly make God's alternative way to true greatness more visible, audible, tangible, and comprehensible. Look at Jesus of the Gospel and let him move you to action. Be a prophetic sign, wherever you are called to such mission.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Venue for the crime of libel—The error was probably due to the confusion as to the proper venue for the crime of libel brought about by the passage of RA 7691 which took effect on April 15, 1994. Under Section 2 of the said Republic Act, the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trail Courts was expanded to include all offenses punishable with imprisonment not exceeding six (6) years. However, libel, which is punishable by imprisonment ranging from six months and one day to four years is not covered as the said law excludes from its coverage cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Regional Trial Courts. Under Article 360 of the Revised Penal Code, the information for libel should be filed with the Court of First Instance, now the Regional Trial Court. The confusion was cleared up when this Court issued Administrative Order No. 104-96 dated Oct. 21, 1996 which categorically stated that "Libel cases shall be tried by the Regional Trial Courts having jurisdiction over them to the exclusion of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Arambulo v. Laqui, G.R. No. 138596, October 12, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Left ahead in Paris vote for 1st time in more than 100 yrs

PARIS—French Socialists looked in a strong position to take control of the city of Paris for the first time in more than a century yesterday, after their candidate Bertrand Delanoe won a clear lead in the first round of municipal elections.

However the right, which has controlled Paris since 1977, promised a fight back in the week leading to next Sunday's second round, and in local elections across the country reports of a "pink wave" sweeping out right-wing mayors proved unfounded.

Delanoe, a 50-year-old senator who is also one of France's few openly gay politicians, won an estimated 34 percent of the vote in Paris, and did well in the large districts which must swing left if he is to win.

The main right-wing contender Philippe Seguin—representing the RPR of President Jacques Chirac—won only 25 percent across the city, and suffered a big personal defeat with only around 18 percent of the vote in the 18th district where he was standing.

The poll appeared to confirm predictions that Delanoe would be elected mayor after next Sunday, with voters expressing their exasperation at the charges of institutionalized corruption that have proliferated after 24 years of RPR rule.

A Socialist win would also be a powerful symbolic blow to Chirac, who was the capital's mayor for 18 years and used it to build his political career, a year ahead of national parliamentary and presidential elections.

In the coming days Delanoe was expected to strike a deal with the Green party, which won an estimated 12 percent in Paris and the right to proceed to round two in several districts, in order to maximize the left wing vote. *AFP*

Terrorism trial begins in American port town

PORT ANGELES, Washington—This working-class port town on America's northwest tip seems an unlikely focus for an international probe involving Osama bin Laden, the USS Cole and the French terrorist hunter who helped put Carlos the Jackal behind bars.

But Port Angeles, prosecutors say, is where a plot to usher in a bloody US millennium began to unravel.

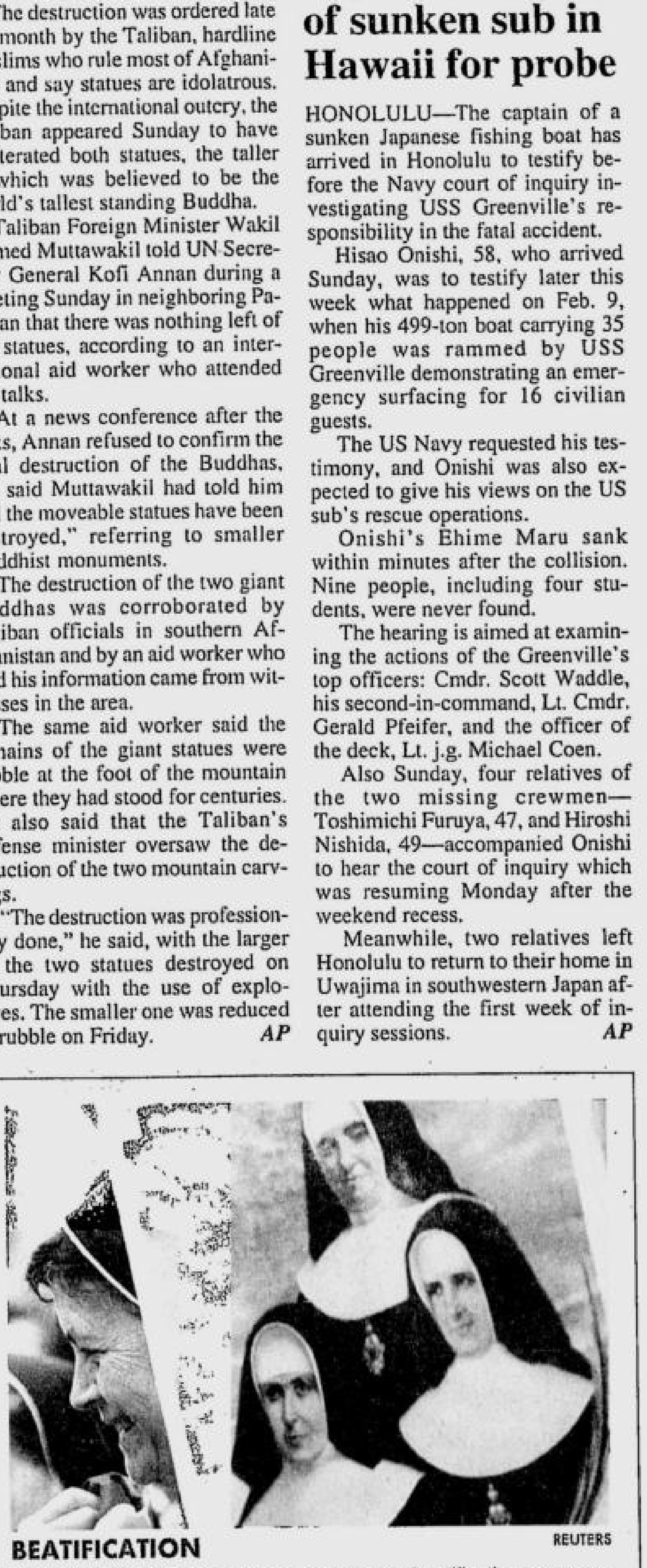
At the center is Ahmed Ressam, 33, the soft-spoken Algerian whose trial on terrorist conspiracy charges begins Monday in Los Angeles.

His trial was moved from Washington state to Los Angeles because of intense publicity here.

Ressam was arrested 15 months ago after taking a ferry boat to Port Angeles from Canada. Customs agents said they noticed him sweating and shuddering during routine questioning.

When agents popped the trunk of Ressam's rented sedan, they found nitroglycerin and other bomb-making materials. The charges he faces include plotting a terrorist attack and possessing explosives.

"It just shocked me," said Cindy Englebertson, clerk at the Necessities and Temptations gift shop, across the street from the ferry dock. "We go around with our car doors unlocked and our houses unlocked here. We're not used to this." *AP*


BEATIFICATION REUTERS

A nun smiles as she holds a placard during the beatification ceremony at the Vatican, March 11. Pope John Paul II beatified 232 martyrs who were killed during the 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War at a two-hour-long ceremony attended by tens of thousands of people.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Warning vs posters

COTABATO CITY—The Comelec office here has warned senatorial candidates against posting campaign materials outside common poster areas. But Arturo Cocjin, city election chief, admitted that his office has yet to identify and set up the common poster areas. "You will be held responsible for the mess created by your supporters," he told senatorial candidates. Cocjin said the act of the supporters is understood as the act of the candidates themselves. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tabaco cityhood signed

TABACO, Albay—President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed a law converting this town into a city. Mayor Alex Burce said Ms Macapagal's ceremonial signing was witnessed by majority of Tabaco's Sangguniang Bayan members who strongly supported the cityhood bill. Burce said the plebiscite will be on March 24. Vice Mayor Oscar Rocha was assigned to help the Comelec in the preparation.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Comelec denies reports

LEGAZPI CITY—Masbate Commission on Elections supervisor Mohamad B. Hassan has denied reports he had abused his subordinates. Hassan was reacting to news published in a local paper that some local Comelec officials reportedly led by Nosorrendo Villamor, election registrar of Placer town, are seeking his ouster for inhumanely treating his subordinates and calling them "thieves, dumb and stupid." The group also accused Hassan of being partial to some politicians. Villamor was quoted as saying that his group, backed by provincial prosecutor Hermenegildo Betonio Jr., would boycott the coming May elections and picket the Comelec offices in Manila if Hassan is not removed.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dialysis centers vowed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Senatorial candidate and former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa vowed to work for the setting up of dialysis centers for the poor. In a campaign speech at the Mendoza Park here on Sunday, Ejercito said she had seen areas where residents die without seeing a doctor. Speaking before a crowd of 300 persons, she said she wanted every hospital to have dialysis equipment. *Albert Ruelle de Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Filipina dies in Mecca

COTABATO CITY—An elderly Filipina died of a heart attack while performing the *hajj* in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Zamzamin Ampatuan, executive director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, said Saiba Sopian Macating, 66, a resident of Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, died of a heart attack while performing the *hajj* on March 5. Macating's relatives said the victim had long been suffering from the disease. A pilgrim is considered blessed when he dies while performing the hajj, Ampatuan said. A pilgrim who dies during the *hajj* is buried at the pilgrimage site, considered by Muslims as a hallowed ground, Ampatuan added.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Oops, wrong caption

THE photo that appeared in yesterday's story titled "NPC still dominant in Benguet" (03/12/01, page A16) is that of Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas. The caption was "Domogan." We apologize for the error.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Meanwhile, Northern Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers while the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 22°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 21°	Laoag HI 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 22°	Tagaytay HI 30° Lo 21°	Legazpi HI 30° Lo 25°	Calapan HI 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 31° Lo 24°	Roxas HI 30° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 23°	Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 30° Lo 23°	Davao HI 30° Lo 23°

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Subic labor unrest worsens

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Protesting workers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and its subsidiary, the Freeport Services Corp., refused to ratify a compromise agreement signed by their 12 representatives Friday night.

In a letter to SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo and lawyer Sergio Cruz, FSC officer in charge, the workers' 12 signatories said "the entire membership believes that the agreement contains provisions and conditions contrary to law and (which violate) the rights guaranteed them by the Constitution."

Because of this, the workers refused to return to work Monday, as provided for in the agreement.

Anicia Marasigan-de Lima, Civil Service Commission regional director, said the workers negotiated in "bad faith" by sending a 12-member negotiating committee last Friday whom they now claim to have no authority to enter into an amicable settlement on their behalf.

Labor and management representatives and government conciliators were scheduled yesterday, in compliance with the provision of the agreement that the SBMA and the FSC would "immediately address the legitimate grievances and issues raised during the Feb. 21-March 9 mass action."

De Lima was surprised to see on Monday that most of the members of the workers' negotiating committee have been replaced.

The new set of workers' representatives claimed that they now have the authority to negotiate because they were elected by the entire membership.

John Tabares, one of the original 12 who agreed to the amicable settlement last week, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that majority of the workers rejected the settlement mainly because of two provisions.

These are the provisions which state that the workers acknowledge that their protest action was "contrary to law" and one in which they promise not to engage in "similar wrongful activity" in the future but would observe the rule of law and proper legal action in expressing their grievances.

"The provisions favor the management," Tabares said.

Tabares said he and the 11 others who represented the workers last week were just chosen to "negotiate." This being so, he said they wanted to consult with the workers before signing the amicable settlement.

De Lima explained, however, that if these components of the amicable settlement were removed, management would also withdraw the second component.

This is the management's commitment that it will accept the protesting workers without taking any legal or administrative action against them for the protest action.

Tabares said their group contested the two provisions during the final negotiations mediated by conciliators from the CSC and the NCMB.

Asked why they signed the document, Tabares said they were already under extreme pressure, not only because the management refused to concede anymore than what was written in the document but also because the protest action was already hurting the workers.

"We were saddened by the plight of our fellow workers who were hurting. Some of them were left by their partners, their children were not able to go to school," he said. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Off-duty cop dies pursuing robbers

By Roger V. Paller
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An off-duty policeman and a suspected robber were killed in a gunfight after a robbery at a money changer and carpet shop here.

The shop owner, Ali Nehatbageri, an Iranian, was wounded in the leg and brought to a hospital after he was shot by one of the suspected robbers.

PO3 Romeo Hilig of the Cebu police provincial command and one of the suspects, identified as Christopher Belanguis, alias Jun Halap, were killed during the gunfight.

Hilig was off-duty when he gave chase to a jeepney that the suspects used as a getaway vehicle.

He was riding a motorcycle with his sisters when he saw a commotion in the jeepney.

As Hilig neared the jeepney, shots rang out.

It was not immediately known who fired first, but the jeepney driver, identified only as Ricky, said he jumped off the jeepney when he saw one of the suspects pull out a gun as Hilig came near.

Hilig apparently was able to hit one of the suspects who was identified later to be Belanguis through his ID. Hilig, however, failed to see two suspects who were at his back.

The policeman died from five gunshot wounds, all in the back.

Traces of blood seen at the scene of the shooting led policemen to believe that another suspect had been hit.

Investigators could not say how much was taken from the shop, but said the robbers emptied the shop's drawers of cash and other valuables.

Roger Gerodias, a security guard of a nearby shop, told the INQUIRER three men stood in front of the Iranian's shop at about 10:45 p.m.

Gerodias said he saw the Iranian being shot outside his shop after which the three suspects boarded a jeepney.

Police said three of the suspects took off in a taxi, leaving behind the wounded Belanguis.

Chief Supt. Ronald Roderos, Cebu City police chief, said he will recommend the posthumous promotion of Hilig.

"It seems that criminals elements from areas outside Cebu operate in Cebu and return immediately to their places of origin," Roderos said.

Mayor Alvin Garcia said he would give financial assistance to the Hiligs.

Firm urged to move airport

ANGELES CITY—The Macapagal administration would respect the contract of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, said Presidential Assistant for North Luzon Renato Diaz.

But Diaz said it would be mutually beneficial for the government and Piatco to reconsider transferring the terminal project from Manila to Clark.

"(The) government is committed to respect its contractual obligations. But I feel, upon my initiatives, if we can do it amicably, we can arrive at a mutually beneficial decision for them to transfer," Diaz told the INQUIRER.

He spoke before the 10th general assembly of the regional development council (RDC) of Central Luzon on Thursday.

Nothing was certain yet about the transfer but Diaz said Piatco might be "open" to study the proposal locating the new terminal at the 2,200-hectare Clark International Airport here.

This was an alternative that had not been considered because pro-Clark airport proponents always looked at the limitations posed by the contract, he said.

In the amended agreement signed during the Estrada administration, Clark was limited to servicing 850,000 passengers a year for three years until Piatco reached or exceeded its development capacity of 10 million passengers also within three years.

Diaz said the expansion of the Clark airport was not an immediate problem since the existing terminal can easily service a million passengers. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ANOTHER PMA TRADITION

Cadet's death result of 'celebration'

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—It was a celebration gone awry.

Officials of the Philippine Military Academy here said Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo was unintentionally killed by fellow cadets who subjected him to traditional military welcome rites for hurdling his academic subjects.

"The intention of the cadets is good. They were just congratulating the plebes (fourth class cadets). But the method they used (in celebrating) was unauthorized and that is physical contact," Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, told reporters here on Monday.

Carranza said the incident apparently occurred at about 10:30 p.m., after tactical officers had made their rounds and thought the cadets were already asleep.

Immediately after, the yearlings or third class cadets apparently called for Domingo and other plebes, Carranza said.

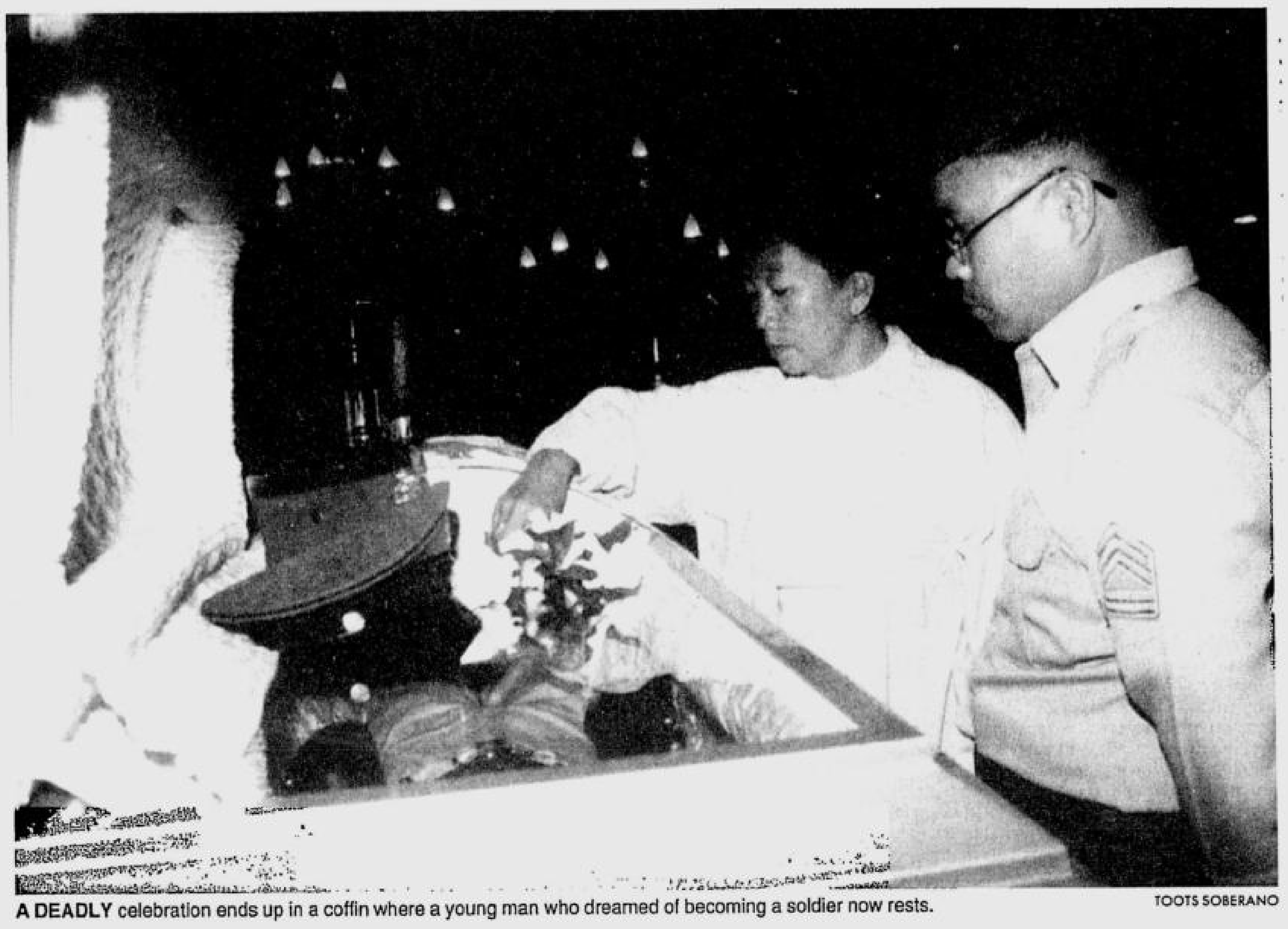
"Domingo was not even supposed to be there. Unlike the others, he was already recognized," he added.

He said Domingo should have not been part of the clandestine celebration, as he was not a "pure plebe" because he was already recognized earlier.

Domingo originally belonged to PMA Class 2003 but was turned back after he flunked some subjects.

Carranza said Domingo could have joined the activity out of camaraderie. During the "celebration," the plebes were reportedly hit by a lead pipe in the buttocks eight times to correspond to the letters forming the word "yearling (third class cadets)" and were punched in different parts of the body.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr., assistant PMA superintendent, said among the suspects in Domingo's fatal hazing is his best friend, Cadet Third Class John Louie Ong.



A DEADLY celebration ends up in a coffin where a young man who dreamed of becoming a soldier now rests.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Apart from Ong, a native of Bacolod City, the other suspects include third class cadets Michael Perang, Willard Aperocho and Omar Julius Labajo, all natives of Mindanao. The four are roommates at the Alpha Company Barracks Room 322, where the fatal hazing occurred.

Ong reportedly told doctors that it was he who punched Domingo. The suspects are now held in the PMA Stockade.

In a statement, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expressed shock and sadness over the hazing death.

"I want maltreatment, hazing and all other forms of illegal punishment be stopped at once at the academy," Ms Macapagal said.

Domingo suffered from cardiorespiratory arrest due to blows in his solar plexus located below the rib cage. A police medico-legal report showed blood clots in his body.

"Let's make no qualms about it. It is plain and simple hazing or maltreatment," said Carranza. "I am one of the strictest when it comes to this and yet it happened. This hazing incident is an aberration. This has brought discredit to the institution," he said. *Frank Cimatu and Robert Abaño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3,000 Pampanga cops return to school to keep their jobs

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Thrice a week after duty hours, PO1 Jose Mendoza (not his real name) attends a night school in the City of San Fernando to complete an unfinished business that is now hounding his police career—a four-year college course.

Mendoza, 25, is trying as much to finish college, a requirement set by Republic Act 8551 or the Philippine National Police Reform and Organization Law.

Like Mendoza, more than 3,000 of 7,000 police personnel in Central Luzon have not finished college, an audit of personnel here showed.

They face the risks of being separated or retired early from the service unless they obtain a diploma, said Senior Supt. Amado Paneda, Camp Olivas public information officer.

Those who have rendered less than 20 years of service will be separated while those who have served for more than 20 years may retire.

Before the law was passed in 1998, the eligibility requirements of the National Police Commission were simple.

One must be 5'4" tall, has finished high school and has no derogatory records.

Under the law's general qualification for appointment, a policeman "must possess a formal baccalaureate degree from a recognized institution of learning."

Only 500 policemen have availed themselves of a distance education program. However, 78 have already dropped out, Paneda said. The reasons stemmed from lack of money, enthusiasm or energy, he said.

"It is doubly hard to get a college education when one is already in the service and at the same time is raising a family, like me," Mendoza said.

He gets a monthly pay of P6,000 which, he said, is not enough to pay for tuition and other fees, buy school supplies, spend for transportation fare and, at the same time, raise a family.

"Then you'll get tired easily from work that's why you will be forced to either skip classes or get sleepy in class," he said.

Those who hold the rank of Senior Police Officer 4 and earn P10,000 monthly opt to send their children to college first, Mendoza said.

There are scholarships available for policemen and their dependents, according to Paneda.

These are, however, not enough with the limited PNP budget, he said.

Reports said many policemen have resorted to faking their diploma or their civil service eligibility records, a scheme that they do not often get away with, Paneda said.

"To avoid trouble, we should work hard in school, spend wisely or obtain loans," Mendoza said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Police botch case vs drug suspects

ROXAS CITY—Three drug suspects went off the hook after policemen who arrested them were found to have mishandled their case.

Assistant city prosecutor Eduardo Delfin recommended the dismissal of the drug charges filed against suspects Rex Banico, Nestor Soriano and Joaquin Masigon for lack of evidence.

Delfin said the arresting officers failed to build a strong case against the suspects and gave conflicting testimonies.

Acting city prosecutor Anthony D. Firmalino approved the case's dismissal.

The three were arrested by policemen led by Supt. Norberto Boston on Feb. 22 at a restaurant on Rizal Street for alleged possession of illegal drugs.

Seized from the suspects were P680 in cash, five P100 in marked money, two scissors and eight plastic sachets that policemen said contained shabu.

Delfin said inconsistencies in the police account of the case and the officers' testimony raised doubts on the case's strength.

While arresting officers PO1 Joelbert Cares and PO1 Bobby Legaspi testified that they hired a tricycle to conduct the buy-bust operation against the suspects, SPO3 Renato Olac, part of the arresting team, testified that all the policemen rode in an ambulance on the way to the site of the drug bust.

Legaspi testified that Carles searched suspect Banico at the Camp Teodorico Apil but Carles said the search was made at the restaurant.

Legaspi also testified that the serial numbers of the marked money were listed in the police blotter, but Olac denied this.

The three officers also admitted that they brought the drug suspects to the Camp Teodorico Apil in Loctugan Hills instead of bringing them to the city police station, which is less than a kilometer from the restaurant.

This, Delfin said, was a violation of the rules of criminal procedure, which provides that "in cases (where) a person is arrested without a warrant, he shall forthwith be delivered to the nearest police station or jail." *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Reform electricity industry, consumers' group urges Gloria

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Opposition against the Power Industry Reform Act is expected to gain more steam in Central Luzon as consumer groups hold forums tackling the flaws of the bill and draw support for proposals that will result in lower power rates and efficient services.

The National Association of Electricity Consumer for Reforms (Nasecore) and the Central Luzon Alliance for Consumer Protection (CLACP) began the series of forums in the region during the 10th general assembly of the Regional Development Council on Thursday.

Province- and municipal-wide forums on the act will continue until mid-April, CLACP vice president Catalina Saplala said.

Pete Ilagan, Nasecore president, said President Macapagal-Arroyo should consider adding nine reforms to the bill to protect the interests and welfare of consumers.

Monopolies

He said the act "hardly addresses the monopolistic nature of a few over the electric power industry."

The retail of electricity in the proposed privatization of the National Power Corp. should not be limited to distributors but, should include more "aggregators" on the fourth year after the enactment of the law, he said.

Aggregators are end users with demands of at least one megawatt in Luzon and half megawatt in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Opening the retail to competition will promote the formation of more aggregators that will help force down power rates and promote efficient service, Ilagan said.

He said this had been a "tried and tested formula" in the United States, especially in New York.

Nasecore is also urging a review of Napocor contracts with independent power producers to protect the consumers from shouldering the liabilities.

Equity

"On grounds of equity, the consumers must not be made to shoulder the costs of these business decisions in much the same way that consumers do not participate in the profits derived from these business decisions," Nasecore's statement said.

The group also urged an additional prohibition on cross-ownership between a generation and a distribution company to ensure a competitive environment.

It also urged a minimum ownership cap on power generation companies for at least 15 years to allow new players to mature and become competitive.

Nasecore is also seeking a repeal of the "martial law powers" of the National Electrification Administration over electric cooperatives for these to enjoy autonomy and ownership by member-consumers.

Cooperatives

Most of the 119 electric cooperatives in the country are still managed by the NEA and are not operating as cooperatives in the truest sense of the word, Ilagan said.

Cooperatives, according to him, should have the option to convert into a stock corporation under the act.

Nasecore also rejected a provision condoning the debts of electric cooperatives but demanded an audit of funds that the NEA administers.

"We view this as a ploy to exonerate or absolve (the) NEA from alleged irregularities committed and to permanently hide its apparent incompetence as overseer of electric cooperatives that resulted (in) such unpaid huge debts," Ilagan said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

AFP, PNP split over rebels' display of firearms

BACOLOD CITY—The police and military in Negros Occidental are divided over whether breakaway communist rebels violated an election ban on the carrying of guns when they paraded in a town fully armed.

Brig. Gen. Julius Javier, Armed Forces Visayas Command chief, ordered any member of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade or the New People's Army who will be caught carrying unlicensed guns.

"Our soldiers are not allowed to carry firearms when they are off duty. Why should we tolerate them (the rebels)?" Javier asked amid questions raised over the public display Tuesday by the RPA-ABB of high-powered firearms in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

Javier said the peace agreement between the breakaway rebels and the Estrada administration doesn't provide for guidelines that would allow the rebels to carry weapons publicly.

But Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental provincial police director, also said yesterday that his initial impression after an investigation was that the RPA-ABB did not violate the Comelec gun ban.

However, he said, the opinion of the Comelec on the matter will have to be sought.

The RPA-ABB celebrated its fourth founding anniversary by parading with their weapons in the presence of Don Salvador Benedicto Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz and Vice Mayor David Pontillano and San Carlos Vice Mayor Eugenio Jose Lacson.

Barias said the parade did not violate the gun ban because it was inside what was considered RPA-ABB territory.

The gun ban is violated when firearms are carried and transported outside, he said.

He also said even if the firearms were not licensed, they were not illegal because they had been recognized by the peace agreement.

Carapali Lualhati, RPA-ABB national commander, said the parade was held inside the RPA-ABB regional peace office, which was recognized by the government peace panel that was then under Haydee Yorac.

"Election or no elections, peace talks or no peace talks, we carry firearms as revolutionaries," he said.

Critics of the parade are using the display of weapons as a campaign issue, said the RPA-ABB.

On Thursday, retired Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, who is now running for vice governor of Negros Occidental, said local officials who allowed the display of weapons should be held liable.

Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela said he will discuss the issue with acting Defense Chief Eduardo Ermita.

"This is a particularly sensitive issue that needs to be handled carefully," he said.

But he added that he is for the strict enforcement of the Comelec gun ban. "This is not just a Negros problem. It will have implications at the national level," he said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Jacobi: Irene pal let me into deal

(From page A1)

"We knew that the amount itself could never be transferred due to the fact that we were told already by the banker that this type of amount in their name (would raise an alarm)—the red flag would pop up if the request were made," Jacobi pointed out.

"Therefore we knew that the transaction itself could not go through. But the idea was that the Aranetas themselves, the Marcoses, would come into the bank and request that (transfer of the money from UBS to Deutsche Bank)—that is attempted money laundering," he stressed.

Boardman, Hutcherson's American partner, who claims he was eased out of the deal, said it was clear to Camcam, lawyer Eleazar Reyes and Curtiss Waters, an American friend of the Marcoses who had recommended Hutcherson's involvement, that Jacobi would be involved.

'Not our line of work'

Boardman said that as far as Camcam and party were concerned, getting the Australian investigator—who was familiar with both the Marcos wealth and money laundering procedures—into the deal was the only way to make it work.

"Up front, they (Camcam, Reyes and Waters) knew, that he was involved, they knew that the transaction was gonna be worked out with Reiner, through Reiner's contact, because this wasn't our line of work," he said.

But the parties agreed to keep the truth secret from the Araneta couple, he said.

"They made it very clear to us, 'they' as in Edna, Junjun (Camcam's son), and Eleazar Reyes, that they would never tell Greggy and Irene Araneta that RJ (Jacobi) was involved," Boardman said.

"So after the third day, they felt comfortable to proceed further. So at that point, me and Hank (sic)—we flew down (to Sydney and) met with RJ and David. That was the first time we brought that to RJ and David: if they could materialize a banker that could make this transaction," Boardman said.

"Then they (Edna and Reyes) would produce the Aranetas, or the signatures and whatever documentation we deemed (necessary) to make it happen. Ely (Eleazar Reyes) was emphatic that he could do whatever needed to be done on Irene Araneta's side to do this," he recalled.

Secrecy clause

"Hank showed me the agreement," Chaikin said. "They did not want to put their names or numbers in, or banks or anything like that in case that document was found in their possession in Manila. They were paranoid, obsessed. (Those would be) the only documents in Manila that could incriminate them."

He said that the Aranetas wanted to refine the agreement. "Essentially, it says, 'Hank you're being paid 25 percent to help us launder our money from Switzerland and Liechtenstein,'" Chaikin explained.

He added: "The whole (point) of this was that this was going to be their first attempt to get the money out—all accounts at UBS and in particular, the 885931. But the agreement concerned not just UBS accounts but other accounts they had in Liechtenstein."

There were a number of clauses in the agreement between Hutcherson and Irene Araneta, Chaikin said.

One clause provided that Irene would request the transfer of her funds from UBS to a still undetermined German financial institution, he said.

Another was a confidentiality or secrecy clause.

According to the deal, neither Hutcherson nor Irene would disclose the existence of the agreement, and Hutcherson would keep secret Irene's bank accounts in Switzerland, Liechtenstein and elsewhere, including the new account at the designated bank in Germany.

"It was quite clear that they were concerned about Irene. They were concerned that the existence of this account . . . should be kept secret," Chaikin said.

The secrecy clause was very important to the Aranetas, he stressed.

'Everybody knew'

Unfortunately for them, Reiner Jacobi went straight to German authorities after agreeing to find a banker that could supposedly help the couple get their money out of Switzerland.

"Everybody knew—the bank, the relevant government—everybody knew what was going on. The only person who didn't know what was going on were the people involved in the deal," Chaikin said.

Jacobi felt that the Aranetas, if they came to Germany, would be walking into a trap of their own making.

"If they did not have any money (in Switzerland) like they have stated over the last 15 years, then why even allow yourself to be talked into coming to Germany?" Jacobi said, adding that they might try to make the excuse that they were framed.

But "from the Aranetas' point of view, would you, when you have been told that you have billions of dollars, just jump on a plane and then go to Germany and then close the account (in Switzerland)?" he said.

"No. The idea was, they knew full well that Hank Hutcherson could provide a friendly banker or—a better word—a crooked banker, and that's how the Araneta people would think," he said.

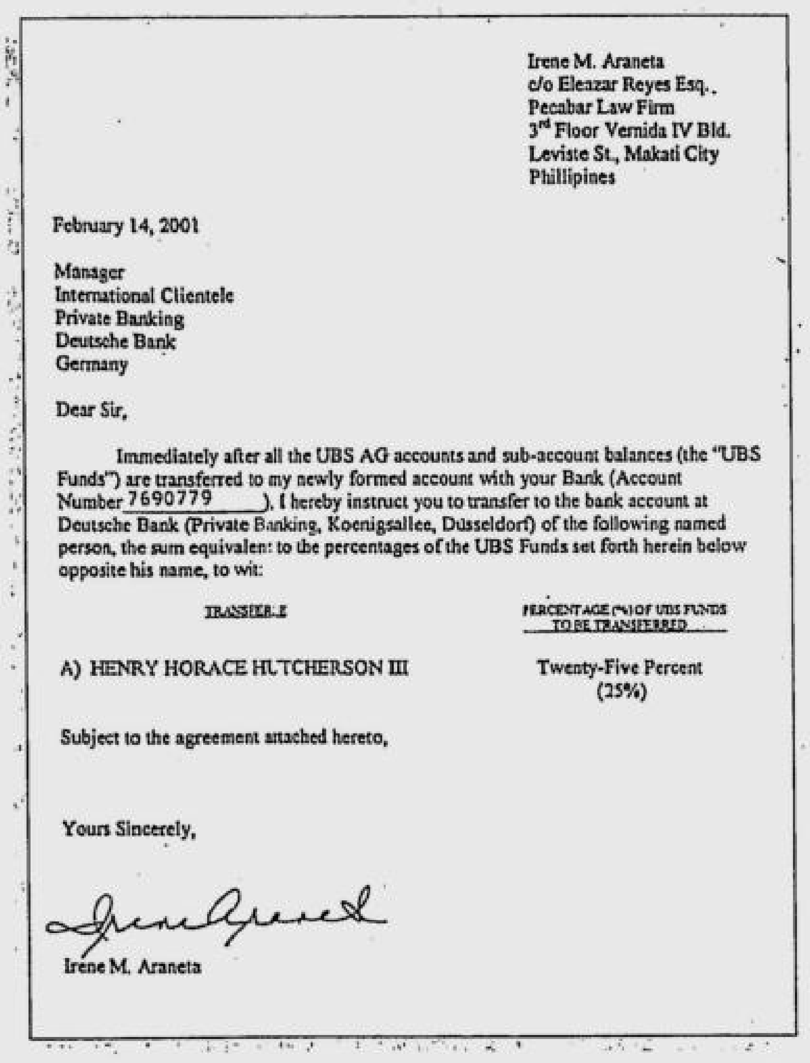
"Our hope was that the bank and the proper authorities would allow the transaction to go ahead while keeping (the Aranetas under) close surveillance," Chaikin said.

"And if it works in this transaction, well, they're going to go ahead and work out other transactions," the lawyer said.

First plan

Jacobi said he introduced Hutcherson to the "friendly banker," a Deutsche Bank official who was actually part of the supposed plan to catch the Aranetas in the act of trying to launder money.

Hutcherson, in turn, assured Jacobi that Camcam would get power of attorney from Irene Araneta to represent her in transactions with the banker.



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February 14, 2001

Manager
International Clientele
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Germany

Dear Sir,

Immediately after all the UBS AG accounts and sub-account balances (the "UBS Funds") are transferred to my newly formed account with your Bank (Account Number 7690779), I hereby instruct you to transfer to the bank account at Deutsche Bank (Private Banking, Koenigsallee, Düsseldorf) of the following named person, the sum equivalent to the percentages of the UBS Funds set forth herein below opposite his name, to wit:

TRANSFEREE	PERCENTAGE (%) OF UBS FUNDS TO BE TRANSFERRED
A) HENRY HORACE HUTCHERSON III	Twenty-Five Percent (25%)

Subject to the agreement attached hereto,

Yours Sincerely,

Irene M. Araneta

VALENTINE'S Day letter. One of the instruction letters allegedly signed by Irene Marcos-Araneta on the distribution of her Swiss funds.

Under this plan, Jacobi said, Irene would not travel to Germany and could plausibly deny knowledge of the accounts and, if need be, even granting the power of attorney.

The alleged plan would provide Irene with maximum protection. The only risk would be to the Camcam group.

In early February, however, Hutcherson persuaded Waters, the friend of the Marcoses, that the best scenario would entail Irene herself going to the German bank. In such a case, there would be less need for verification and additional papers, and the withdrawal and transfer of the Swiss funds would be much faster.

"It's easier to transfer (the money) from Irene's account in Switzerland to Irene's account in Germany. There's no question of fraud. It's so much simpler," Chaikin said.

As far as the Aranetas were concerned, the German banker was Hutcherson's contact and they felt comfortable enough to risk the trip to Dusseldorf, according to Jacobi.

Greggy 'tests waters'

On Friday, Feb. 9, the Aranetas came to Germany, he said. They traveled separately from Camcam, Junjun and Reyes; and kept their location in Germany secret, he said.

On Monday, Feb. 12, they walked into Deutsche Bank to open an account, accompanied by Hutcherson and Reyes, Jacobi said.

Having Irene open the account in her name was Greggy's idea, according to Jacobi and Chaikin.

"What was originally planned by Hank is that they would sign these documents, go to the bank, get everything done and run away. At least that was the safest course," Chaikin said.

"Greggy decided no. The safest course for him was to send Irene. Irene would be the one who would be signing the document. Greggy wouldn't open any account. Irene would open the account, and that's what she did, she filled out a form, a little conversation, no power of attorney at that stage. Just to see what would happen," Chaikin said.

"To test the waters," Jacobi added.

Greggy was very concerned with protecting himself, the two claimed.

Flesh and blood

Jacobi said the "friendly banker" and Deutsche Bank "conducted themselves extremely properly and legally."

"They had to do this because of the people (Marcoses) who were involved," Chaikin said.

When he met Irene, the "friendly banker" was polite, cooperative, and acted like "he was trying to help her out," chuckled Chaikin.

"The Aranetas were just sitting in front of the banker . . . He was all flesh and blood, he could talk, he had hair on his head—and he went on to open up the account," Jacobi said.

They had tried before to withdraw their 885931 account as well as other deposits at the Union Bank of Switzerland, through their Swiss adviser, Dr. Patrick Ari Foetisch, thrice with no success.

But Deutsch Bank "didn't say no," and the Aranetas fell for the ruse and started to believe that this was the real McCoy, Chaikin said.

Beautiful brown eyes

So Irene opened the account. She read the official form, which specifically mentioned anti-money laundering precautions.

"There, in front of her beautiful brown eyes, would have been the words "information pursuant to the money laundering act." It's a warning sign on the opening of the account form. That's the one she would have filled out," Chaikin said.

"They (the banks) take that very, very seriously. But they allowed her to open an account, (although) they could have simply said go away. It was safe because all the relevant authorities knew what was going on," Chaikin said.

Between Monday, Feb. 12, when Irene opened Account No. 7690779, and Wednesday, Feb. 14, when she executed the instructions for the transfer of the Swiss funds to Deutsche bank, there was a whole series of problems that arose, Jacobi said.

The parties started arguing about percentages and whether they were being duped by each other on the money, he said.

After Irene had successfully opened her account, Greggy told Hutcherson that he wanted a guarantee that the money from Switzerland would not be confiscated when it arrived in Germany.

"In other words, he (Greggy) now believed that the money could be transferred, but his concern was that if it arrived in Germany, it might be confiscated, and maybe the banker or somebody else would pay Hank). So they wanted to go back to the banker to ask him that question, and there was a whole series of problems that arose from that," Chaikin said.

Swiss adviser

The next day, Tuesday, Feb. 13, Greggy wanted his Swiss adviser, Dr. Foetisch, to review the transaction and to speak with the German banker, Chaikin said.

Hutcherson was supposed to ask the banker to ring up Dr. Foetisch in Geneva, he said. Greggy allegedly said that his adviser was even willing to fly down to Germany to interrogate the Deutsche Bank official.

The alleged plan was dropped when Hutcherson cautioned Greggy that Foetisch might break the confidence rule and ruin the whole deal. Hutcherson supposedly explained that for the German banker to enter into conversations with a third party would be a breach of client confidentiality.

A German banker was not going to answer questions from a legal adviser, Hutcherson supposedly argued.

In the end, according to Jacobi, Foetisch reviewed the agreement anyway, and put in an arbitration clause between Irene and Hutcherson—that any dispute on the sharing arrangement would have to be settled before an arbitrator in Switzerland.

The gang's all here

Around 10:30 a.m. the next day, Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Araneta couple again went to the bank, allegedly ready to execute the transfer of the funds from UBS to Deutsche Bank.

This time, throwing caution to the winds, the Aranetas came with their whole gang. There were Irene and Greggy, their lawyer Eleazar Reyes, Edna Camcam and her son Junjun.

"So what happened was that the whole party went. They were all sitting at the coffee lounge," Chaikin recalled.

"And then Irene, Greggy and Hank met the banker. Greggy wanted to ask questions. He asked the question: When the money comes in, will it be confiscated? He didn't use those words; he said, 'Can I take it out straight away, and how much can I take out?'

"And the banker said, 'When money comes in an account, you can take it straight away.' He didn't say, 'except for you.' He didn't want to be nasty to him because he was a friendly banker," Chaikin said.

A little fight

At that point, the players felt the treasure was in their grasp, and were eager to divide the spoils, Jacobi and Chaikin said.

The Aranetas and Hutcherson had a "little fight" in the presence of the German banker.

"It was unseemly," Chaikin said.

"Hank wanted to make sure that his contract with the Aranetas was signed before they gave instructions to transfer the money, because (otherwise) Hank would be completely cut out of the transactions," he said.

"They started arguing in front of the banker about the agreement," he said.

The Aranetas wanted a "clause in the agreement somewhere that said that if the money came in, and went from Irene to Hank, Hank couldn't withdraw his money unless Irene could withdraw her money at the same time."

Chaikin said this "let's-get-screwed-together" clause was put in by Reyes, the Araneta's lawyer and a partner of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's law firm Pecabar.

"Senator Enrile should be proud of his law partner, thinking about this clause because no one else in the world would have invented such a clause," he said.

Word for word

The "private and confidential" instruction, bearing the signature of "Irene Araneta," was addressed to Mr. Henry Horace Hutcherson III, who also allegedly signed the agreement.

It read in part: "In connection with our agreement dated Feb. 14, 2001, particularly in reference to your compensation of 25 percent to be transferred to your personal account at Deutsche Bank . . . it is our agreement and understanding as follows:

"1. You shall not withdraw from your said personal account at Deutsche Bank any portion of such funds transferred to that account as your compensation, without a proportionate part of our 75 percent remaining deposit in my account at the same bank having been likewise withdrawn by me, or unless a written waiver from me is issued in your favor.

"You shall however be free to transfer the funds from your said account to other accounts within the same bank (Deutsche Bank, Private Banking, Koenigsalle, Dusseldorf) provided that the same withdrawal of said funds from that bank will be subject to the same limitation as provided in paragraph 1 above . . ."

Two other documents instructing the transfer, also executed on Feb. 14, were addressed to the manager of Internationale Clientele section of Deutsche Bank.

One of Irene's signed instruction letters read:

"Immediately after all the UBS AG accounts and sub-account balances ('the UBS Funds') are transferred to my newly formed account with your Bank (Account Number 7690779), I hereby instruct you to transfer to the bank account at Deutsche Bank . . . of Ms Edna C. Guiyab, the sum equivalent to 6 percent of the 75 percent as would remain in my account with you after deducting the 25-percent compensation to Henry Horace Hutcherson III."

Edna Guiyab, according to Jacobi, is Edna Camcam. ***(To be continued tomorrow)***

Irene, Greggy flew to Germany on Feb. 9, says BI

(From page A1)

dering)," said PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento in a press conference.

Sarmiento revealed that the PCGG had asked the Swiss Federal Banking Commission to investigate the alleged accounts of the Marcos family, particularly Irene's, in Switzerland as early as June last year.

To ensure an impartial inquiry, the government and Swiss authorities had hired an independent auditor, the Price Waterhouse Coopers AG, to look into the I. Arenetta account.

While the PCGG insists that the controversial account had been closed, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales, senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada and militant groups urged the Macapagal administration to pursue all leads.

Rosales, spokesperson for a martial law victims' group Claimants 1081, called on the Macapagal administration to "investigate and stop if proven true" the reported attempt of the Marcoses to withdraw the money from the UBS.

"We should, once and for all, get to the bottom of it," Tañada said.

"We've been running after the Marcos billions for 15 years now. It need not take this long if the appropriate agencies have the political will to complete the job. We did it with Erap in a matter of months, that is, unearthed the necessary evidence on the Estrada billions. We can also do it with the Marcoses," he said.

An INQUIRER special report says that the Aranetas had secretly met with a banker at the Deutsche Bank on Feb. 14 and executed documents allowing the transfer of Irene's accounts with the UBS to her newly opened account at the German bank.

The Aranetas were accompanied by lawyer Eleazar Reyes, Edna Camcam and two American businessmen.

This was reportedly one of the five trips the couple made to the bank between Feb. 12 and 20.

But unknown to the Aranetas and their cohorts, their bank transactions were closely monitored and recorded on camera by bank executives in coordination with the anti-money laundering authorities in Germany.

Pecabar lawyer

Immigration records at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) showed that Reyes of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's law firm Pecabar arrived in Manila three days ahead of the Aranetas aboard Lufthansa Airlines Flight LH 744.

Reyes, who had been listed by Irene as her contact person in connection with her accounts with UBS and Deutsche Bank, however, had no record of departure, according to immigration officer David.

Camcam, the longtime mistress of Marcos' chief of staff Fabian Ver, had no record of departure or arrival at the Naia. She is reportedly based in Bangkok, Thailand.

In a statement, Bayan Muna demanded that the government rush its efforts to prevent the Aranetas from transferring the $13.2 billion from the UBS to Deutsche Bank in Germany.

"The Philippine government should drop its wait-and-see attitude over the ill-acquired billions," Bayan Muna official Satur Ocampo said.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya urged the government to file plunder cases against the Araneta couple.

"For people's sake, the government should charge the couple and bring them to court. We cannot afford to witness another grand tale in the tradition of Bonnie and Clyde," said Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer.

In a statement, the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) asked the Macapagal administration "to give full assistance" to Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi in his efforts to pin down the Marcoses.

But PCGG Commissioner Sarmiento expressed doubts about Jacobi's allegation that Irene tried to transfer money from her alleged UBS account to her new account with Deutsche Bank.

"So far, there has been no truth to what Jacobi had uncovered. We have seen that in the Senate blue ribbon committee (investigation)," Sarmiento said.

The account was the subject of a full-blown Senate blue ribbon committee investigation last year.

In a report it submitted to the PCGG on Oct. 30 last year, Price Waterhouse Coopers AG "indicated that none of the persons closely identified or associated with the Marcoses have been registered as account holders (in the UBS) and that there is no evidence showing that assets are being held for their benefit."

"With respect to the relationship between Client No. 885931 Sandy Anstalt with the alleged Marcos family accounts in Liechtenstein and Switzerland, the firm has determined that while the Sandy Anstalt (account) did exist, it did not have any connection with Ferdinand Marcos or persons connected to him, in particular Mrs. Irene M.V. Araneta," the PCGG said, quoting from the report.

The report of Price Waterhouse Coopers was signed by Pascal Portman and Guido Andermatt.

The PCGG further said that documents submitted by Jacobi to support the alleged money laundering transactions traced to Account No. 885931 as early as last year were "not authentic."

In a statement, the PCGG said that while it was "not entirely discounting" the existence of the Marcos assets and funds, it would for now stand by the findings of Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Sarmiento said the PCGG welcomed the new information from Jacobi but was still seeking "new, legitimate and credible evidence and information" that would help the 15-year-old agency identify and recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Sarmiento urged Jacobi, who worked as a consultant for the PCGG in 1991, to furnish the agency copies of documents and other pieces of evidence that would support his latest allegation that the Araneta couple had tried to launder money.

President Macapagal has yet to appoint a new chair and three more commissioners to the PCGG, which has been receiving flak for its perceived lack of transparency and diligence in performing its gargantuan task of wealth recovery.

Frank Chavez

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez also urged the government to go after the Araneta accounts.

"The Macapagal government should utilize these documents to go after the Marcos accounts," he said referring to the Deutsche Bank documents, and other "private and confidential" letters of instruction signed by Irene before Deutsche Bank.

He said that the Philippine government should ask the Swiss Federal Council to freeze the 885931 accounts at the UBS now that Irene had admitted to owning these funds.

On the PCGG's reaction to the report on the Aranetas' attempt to launder Irene's UBS accounts, Chavez said that the PCGG was being "stupid again."

He also called on the new government to revamp the PCGG, which, according to him, had not done anything proper on the investigation of the Araneta accounts.

He urged the Senate blue ribbon committee to resume its investigation of the 885931 account.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Irene and Greggy but they were out. So was Reyes.

Camcam was allegedly out of the country, according to the maid who answered the phone at her Forbes Park mansion. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Volt Contreras***

Joma says he's going home once deal is OKd

(From page A1)

in The Netherlands in 1986, a few months after he was released from prison by then President Corazon Aquino.

He was detained for about eight years during the Marcos dictatorship.

Sison said he was confident that Ms Macapagal was sincere in talking peace with the NDF. "The people can expect that there will be serious negotiations," he said.

He also praised Ms Macapagal for airing concern for and requesting the release of Maj. Noel Buan, who has been held captive for more than a year by the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army.

Speaking in Filipino, Sison said the President was better than the "military officers around her."

The other NPA captive, Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin, former police chief of Dolores, Quezon, was buried at noon yesterday in Sariaya, Quezon.

The CPP/NPA/NDF had earlier been preparing for Martin's release. He was wounded in a supposed chance encounter on March 8 between government troops and the NPA unit holding him. He died from blood loss hours later.

Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, Quezon police chief, said losing Martin in such a manner was painful for the entire provincial police force.

"He was only a few days away from his final freedom because of the upcoming peace talks," Alejandrino said at the funeral.

"But there were other factors beyond our control," he added.

Buan

In an statement e-mailed yesterday from the Netherlands, NDF peace panel chair Luis Jalandoni said he would order that Buan be released not later than April 17, the end of the ceasefire declared by the government in Southern Tagalog.

Jalandoni said he would issue the release order as well as the order for a ceasefire to the NPA Melito Glor Command after receiving the official copy of the President's order for a suspension of military operations, and after the military and police had pulled out their units, including the militia force, from the areas covered.

He called on the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Philippine government's peace panel to "take appropriate roles in the procedure" for Buan's "safe and orderly release."

As chair of the NDF peace panel, Jalandoni is authorized by the NDF executive committee to issue the order for Buan's release.

According to an NDF source, Buan is currently in Oriental Mindoro.

Jalandoni said the NDF decided to speed up Buan's release in response to the President's request and the humanitarian and peace mission of Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Bishop Jesus Varela and Supreme Bishop Tomas Millamena of the Philippine Independent Church.

The ceasefire order on the NPA itself will cover the provinces of Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, and Occidental and Oriental Mindoro from March 17 to April 17, Jalandoni said.

"We hope that the safe and orderly release of the prisoner of war (Buan) under conditions of mutual ceasefire shall improve the atmosphere for the resumption of the . . . peace negotiations," he said.

In a phone conversation with the INQUIRER Sunday, Martin's widow Nenita aired an appeal to the President to "please help" Buan's wife and daughter Cielo and Jenina "see him again."

"This is my main concern now. It's no longer Abe. He is now with the Lord," Nenita said.

Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna and former NDF spokesperson, also urged Ms Macapagal to approve the preliminary accord forged in the Netherlands.

Ocampo told the INQUIRER Sunday in Davao City that the accord would have a positive impact on the grass roots and would ensure that the NDF would be bound by the agreement.

He said it would be better for the President to approve the agreement and "proceed to the next step—for the NDF to facilitate the release of Major Buan and for the government to release all political detainees in its custody."

Martin

In Sariaya, Martin's remains were laid to rest in a private cemetery just outside the *poblacion* to the sound of the taps and the beat of a drum.

A seven-member local police team fired a 21-gun salute as a final tribute.

Nenita Martin, who was beside herself with grief, wailed: "I'm sorry I was not able to protect you! I'm sorry!"

SPO4 Querico Limpin, a contemporary of Martin's in the local force, was the first to bid farewell to the fallen officer.

"If your death will help pave the way for the attainment of lasting peace, so be it. Your death has now become a symbol of peace," Limpin said.

In a homily delivered during the last rites for Martin, Fr. Raul Enriquez said Nenita was the symbol of the country's deep longing for peace, and her slain husband, the catalyst that was now moving the protagonists in the armed conflict to once more talk peace.

"The Filipino people, especially the poor and the oppressed, are always the first casualty in this senseless war. They are the first to be evacuated. They are the first to lose not only their loved ones but also their homes and the very essence of what a family should be—that is, living together in harmony and in peace," Enriquez said.

He appealed to Nenita not to give up and to continue the struggle.

"You are now the living symbol of the Filipino people in their collective aspiration for peace. Hang on, seek out the truth with the rest of the Filipino people, and that truth will set us free," he said.

Earlier, Cielo Buan told the INQUIRER that she was herself in mourning "because Nenita has always been like family to me."

She said that even if her husband returned home safely, her family's happiness would not be complete because of the tragedy that befell the Martins.

"It has left an indelible mark on our lives," she said.

Bungled rescue

A two-day fact-finding team led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) has found that Martin's death was the result of a bungled rescue attempt by soldiers belonging to the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion and the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion under Task Force Banahaw.

"According to the masses in the area, the Scout Rangers blindfolded one of the residents of Sitio Ublian, Barangay San Marcelino, General Nakar, Quezon, and forced him to serve as guide to the area where Martin was held captive," the KMP said in the initial findings released to the media yesterday.

The team said it would announce the full results of its fact-finding mission today.

"What occurred was not a chance encounter but a failed rescue attempt," said Orly Marcellana, secretary general of the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, one of the groups that joined the team.

Quoting residents interviewed by the fact-finding team, Marcellana said that prior to the supposed bungled rescue, the two battalions were already deployed in Quezon.

But Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, chief of the military units in Quezon, said it was impossible for government troops to have attempted a rescue.

"Why would we still make an attempt to rescue Martin when it was all over the papers that it was only a matter of days before he was to be set free? And that report was according to the NDF official themselves," Lachica said.

Lachica also disclosed the initial findings of a military report, which states that Lt. Warren Dagupon and his 10-member team of Rangers were moving on that fateful night from east to west.

"Meaning, they were going inside the Sierra Madre ranges, which should not be the case if they were indeed on an rescue mission," he said.

Lachica said the normal course of action of a rescue team was "to move in the direction of a spot in the area where the enemy would be deprived of a natural shield to cover their position."

"Our men should have moved toward the Lamon Bay area, toward the coastline, and not in the direction of the mountain," he said.

Tirso Alcantara, spokesperson of the NPA Melito Glor Command, had earlier said the firefight wherein Martin was wounded was a result of a failed rescue attempt and not a chance encounter between Army troops and the guerrillas holding him. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

51-man security force guards Erap . . .

(From page A1)

The number of guards assigned to Estrada by Gen. Angelo Reyes, outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff, is several times bigger than those assigned to former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

According to military sources, the size of Estrada's security force is in fulfillment of Reyes' commitment to him that he and his family will be protected from harm.

The sources said Estrada's guards actually numbered 72. But no documents were immediately available to support this claim.

"General Reyes has promised protection for Estrada. But how to justify the number is another thing," a source said.

The source pointed out that at the height of People Power II, Reyes promised Estrada not only a dignified exit but also a five-day grace period before he finally vacated Malacañang.

The grace period did not materialize, but Reyes, along with the AFP vice chief of staff, Gen. Jose Calimlim, personally escorted Estrada and his family out of the Palace on Jan. 20, the same day that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President.

3 for Cory

Aquino has three guards—a lieutenant colonel of the Air Force and two soldiers.

She is said to have refused previous offers to beef up her security detail.

Ramos, a former general, has two officers and 11 soldiers assigned to him.

Former presidents are entitled to security for life.

"Security may be pulled out if he or she asks that the detail be withdrawn," a military officer said.

There are no written rules on the number of guards to which a former president is entitled, according to military officers familiar with VIP security procedures.

Estrada's security force is led by Capt. Juan Ismael Villadolid from the Marines, Capt. Antonio Francisco from the Air Force, and 1st Lt. Ramon Zagala II from the Army.

The bulk is made up of members of the Presidential Security Group during his stay in Malacañang.

At least one soldier is assigned to San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, the ousted President's eldest son by former first lady Luisa Ejercito.

"There are enough men to allow members of Estrada's family their own security," the source said.

Records show that on Jan. 28, 2001, the AFP General Headquarters issued Special Order No. 28 pulling out the 51 officers and men from the PSG.

They were deployed effective Feb. 1 to the Headquarters Support Company, from where the AFP gets officers and men for VIP security.

On Feb. 7, Special Order No. 28 was amended by Special Order No. 38, which put the force directly under the Office of the AFP Chief of Staff.

The two special orders are marked "By Command of General Reyes."

Roll call

The 48 enlisted personnel guarding Estrada are:

Master Sergeants Alfredo Cas, Hector Evangelio, Rustico Nuanggay and Jose Dawal; Chief Petty Officer Elmer Noveno.

Technical Sergeants Ely Fornes, Dominador Tagubasi, Enrique Bellen, Ricardo Alido, Eduardo Casa and Ricardo Santos.

Staff Sergeants John Batacan, Ronald Coloma, Romeo Balmayo, Leodegario Adante and Pedro Corral.

Petty Officer 2 Rizalde Vicente; Sergeants Joseph Mostrales, Abelardo Digma, Bernadeth Almero, Jaime Galvez and Nestor Cuartero.

Corporal Vernie Oro; Master Sergeants Roberto Almarez, Serafin Dioneda, Tito Hijada, Onofre Ortal and Patriola Palma.

Chief Petty Officer Gertrudes Salvador; Technical Sergeants Reynaldo de la Cruz, Felix Mendoza, Gaudencio Galario, Gabriel Carmona, Pablito Llavore and Ernesto Cabullos.

Staff Sergeants Ronaldo Guadana, Martin Gamotea, Ricardo Labiao, Dominador Avellano, Romel Bonifacio and Normal Pingca.

Sergeants Dominic Ycot, Ferdinand Tanaleon, Alexander Ramos, James Ancheta and Mariano Marzan.

Cpl. Christopher So; Private First Class Marjorie Llagas.

Poor folk in Tondo cheer up Erap

(From page A1)

dent, who was perspiring profusely.

Some asked for financial help from Estrada, who stooped from the stage at one point with a wad of bills that vanished in the sea of hands reaching out to him.

Estrada, who is under investigation on charges of plunder, misuse of funds, graft, perjury, bribery and possession of unexplained wealth, denied any wrongdoing and said he would never flee.

He urged the poor to unite to struggle against what he called a clique of rich businessmen who allegedly instigated the protests that hounded his presidency.

Real force

"We will show them the real force of the masses," Estrada said. "If we become united, they will find out their real place."

Former first lady Imelda Marcos generates the same enthusiasm from the crowd whenever she visits Smokey Mountain.

Like her, Estrada says he still retains a strong following among the nation's poor.

Both fell from power amid charges of massive corruption—Imelda and her late husband-dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 Edsa People Power I and Estrada in the recent Edsa People Power II.

Then Vice President Macapagal was sworn in to replace Estrada on Jan. 20 and to finish his six-year term that ends in 2004.

When Ms Macapagal visited Smokey Mountain on Thursday, however, residents yelled support for Estrada. She responded by alighting from her luxury van and talking to the residents, seeking their support.

One woman blocked the door to her shanty as Ms Macapagal approached. The President was later allowed into the hovel, where the woman told her she was supporting Estrada because he promised her and other residents land and food.

Aside from inheriting daunting problems, Ms Macapagal has to deal with Estrada's residual followers who question her rise to power through street protests and not through the ballot.

Early this month, the Supreme Court upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency in an answer to Estrada's petition to declare her a usurper.

But Estrada's lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said his client would file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

Although all 13 justices voted to declare Estrada was no longer the President and a majority of nine ruled he had lost presidential immunity, Saguisag took heart in the reservations made on record by a number of judges.

Little push

"All we need is a little push to convert those votes" in Estrada's favor, his lawyer said over dzMM radio.

The rulings have exposed Estrada to possible arrest. The Macapagal administration has barred him from leaving the country and warned 11 countries and territories against granting him political asylum.

The Office of the Ombudsman is investigating at least eight cases against Estrada, but the Supreme Court has stopped the government from making any criminal indictments before March 22, the deadline for Estrada to appeal the tribunal's rulings.

Saguisag said his client would argue in his motion for reconsideration that "there was no resignation," and that he only agreed to leave Malacañang to avoid possible bloodshed.

"It's like leaving a house which has caught fire," Saguisag said of the actions of his client. "Self-preservation is the first law of mankind."

Saguisag said Estrada was set to name a panel of lawyers who will represent him in the criminal cases the government is preparing to file against him. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

2 UP Baguio students killed by kidnappers

(From page A1)

Based on INQUIRER research, the abduction of Giancarlo Posadas Leung and Tihani Tingal was the ninth kidnap-for-ransom case under the new administration but the first in which the victims lost their lives.

Pampanga police said residents of Barangay Laug in Mexico town found Leung's body between 3 and 4 a.m. Sunday.

PO1 Edna Bayani of the Mexico police said residents told investigators that they heard a gunshot before they found Leung's body which had a bullet wound in the nape.

Chief Insp. Francisco Esguerra, police chief of San Simon town, said residents of Barangay San Pablo in the town discovered Tingal's corpse in a ricefield at about 6:30 a.m.

Tingal's body, which also bore a bullet wound, was found two kilometers from where Leung's body was dumped, police said.

Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police chief, said probers were facing a blank wall in their investigation.

"We have no leads yet. Nobody saw who dumped the bodies. The (local folk) just found them," Rafanan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Rafanan said Pampanga police investigators were working with the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"We have issued an alarm for the 1995 Toyota Corolla with Plate No. UPS 538 that was supposedly used by the suspects in their getaway," he said.

Determined

The father of Leung said he was determined not to let the death of his 22-year-old son become "just another statistic."

"When this was happening I made a promise to my wife that I would bring our son home alive and well. It hurts . . . ," said Charles Leung, former head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority project management unit.

"Now that this has happened, I wish to keep his memory alive. My obligation now extends to seeing that justice is done. We do not want Gian's death to become a meaningless statistic—just one more victim," he said.

Gian was the brother of INQUIRER employee Dennis Leung and a nephew of Ernest Leung, acting finance secretary and president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. during the Ramos administration.

He was also a graduating journalism student at UP Baguio and headed the Beta Sigma Fraternity at the university.

According to the elder Leung, his son was last seen at around 2:30 a.m. Friday in front of a Baguio City establishment.

When Gian did not come home, his mother, Lota, got worried and tried calling him on his cell phone but there was no answer.

"At around 7 p.m. of Friday, a call came and that was the start of our nightmare," the mother said.

P1M ransom

Told by the kidnap gang they wanted P1 million in ransom, the Leungs got in touch with police and the PAOCTF.

At about 5 p.m. of Thursday, Tihani, 26, sent a text message to her elder sister, Tarla, asking permission to spend the night at a friend's house in Baguio.

Tingal, a speech communications graduate of UPCB, told Tarla she would be spending the night with her friends that included her best friend and schoolmate Gian Leung.

The two were abducted from the Holy Ghost village in Baguio that night. Details of the abduction were unavailable as no witnesses have come forward. The friends they were supposed to be with were unidentified.

Yesterday noon, students and teachers at UP Baguio held a Mass at the college lobby to mourn the death of the two students.

"We strongly condemn the abduction and violent killing of Leung, who was graduating this summer, and Tingal, who had a promising career ahead of her," a statement from the UPCB Office of Public Affairs said.

"We call on the authorities to use the powers at their command to solve this heinous crime," the statement added.

UPCB dean Priscilla Macansantos expressed hopes that the case would not end up on the list of police's "unsolved crimes."

Tarla described her sister as "very friendly and affectionate to her friends."

"When we were told she had been abducted along with Gian, the only thing we could do was pray fervently for them," said Tarla, the eldest of four siblings.

"I had no idea something bad would happen to my sister. I had no premonition whatsoever. But I prepared myself for the worst," she said.

The young Leung, whose 23rd birthday falls on March 17, will be buried instead on that day at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City. No announcement on rites for Tingal has been made. ***With reports from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Desiree Caluza, Gobleth Moulic and Rodolfo Nicolas Loterte, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

High court . . .

(From page A1)

Guingona Jr., national campaign manager of the administration People Power Coalition, has a special reason for a new registration.

Guingona said some 4.5 million new voters would ensure a 13-0 sweep for the PPC.

Cruz said there was strong basis to file the petition.

For one, he said the Comelec had failed to effectively disseminate information about the registration for new voters.

Thus, the law prohibiting a registration 120 days before the elections may amount to serious violation of the rights of new voters, Cruz said.

He said strictly applying the law on registration would be unconstitutional.

Apart from bringing the matter to the Supreme Court, Malacañang is also reviewing the Comelec law to see whether there are provisions that will allow the poll body to conduct a registration even before the high tribunal can come up with its decisions, according to Cruz.

A third option, he said, was a special session of Congress on March 19 or 20 to amend the law disallowing registration 120 days before an election.

Borra said there was a two-day registration of voters on the sixth and seventh Saturdays before the elections under Batas Pambansa 881 or the Omnibus Election Code. But this can no longer be done because a system of continuing registration has been in place since 1996, according to him.

"(That was) in previous elections when the old election code was still implemented," Borra said.

Borra issued the clarification in reaction to statements by former Comelec Chair Ramon Felipe.

Felipe said that the poll body during his term held a special registration on April 11 and 12, 1987 for 1.6 million voters a month before the May 11, 1987 congressional elections.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Felipe said Republic Act 8189, which provides for a general registration of voters through a system of continuing registration, did not repeal the regular registration of voters on the sixth and seventh Saturday before election day as provided for in Section 126 of the Omnibus Election Code.

Felipe said that based on this provision a registration could be held on March 31 and April 7, 2001.

"There is still enough time to do it legally without a time-consuming petition before the Supreme Court or congressional action," Felipe said.

But Borra said "now that we have daily registration there is no more need for a periodic or specific two-day period."

"It would be Congress which would amend RA 8189," Borra said. "But we are suggesting that they should consult Comelec if it is still feasible to hold a special registration barely two months before elections nationwide."

Borra admitted, however, that the poll body had started preparations for the registration in the event that Congress amended RA 8189 and removed the 120-day prohibition on registration before the elections.

RA 8189 allows daily registration of voters in the office of the election officers nationwide. But it says that "no registration shall, however, be conducted during the period starting 120 days before a regular election and 90 days before a special election."

Felipe also said RA 8189 did not repeal Section 29 of RA 6646 or the Electoral Reforms Law of 1997. It gives the Comelec the discretion to fix dates for activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right to suffrage "if it is no longer reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts."

A similar view was aired by Ruben Carranza, a law professor at the University of the Philippines and counsel of the Akbayan-Youth which had filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking to nullify an earlier resolution of the Comelec denying requests for a special registration on April 16 and 17.

Carranza said since registration was a pre-election act under RA 6646 "the Comelec could have arguably fixed another date for registration so voters shall not be deprived of their right to suffrage."

"But so far the Comelec insists that RA 8189 applies and not RA 6646 but still it may be possible to persuade the Comelec that there is legal basis for it to hold a special registration possibly within March or before the campaign period begins in April," he said.

But even House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, who met with Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel for an hour at the Comelec yesterday morning, said that the provision on the "stand-by powers" of the Comelec had already been "repealed by subsequent legislation."

Belmonte said the meeting was held to discuss the timetable for special registration of voters as proposed in the House and Senate bills seeking a special registration for special voters not later than April 2.

"We are looking for a way to address the concerns of the young people particularly," Pimentel said. Benipayo declined to elaborate on the issues discussed in the meeting, saying "the matter is under study."

"I never said I am defying Malacañang," Benipayo said. "I've always said that we sympathize with those who want to vote but we will study whether it is still feasible to do it legally and operationally and that is what is being studied."

Ms Macapagal had called for a special session of Congress after the twin bills on the special registration were filed in the House and the Senate.

She had earlier assured youth groups that the Department of Budget and Management was ready to release less than P100 million to fund the special registration.

But Carranza warned that the special session "might not even happen and the wait could only delay the prospects for registration."

Davenport, Williams sisters win

INDIAN WELLS, California—Second-seeded Lindsay Davenport beat Anne-Gaelle Sidot of France 6-4, 6-4 Sunday in the third round of the Tennis Masters Series.

Third-seeded Venus Williams and seventh-seeded Serena Williams also advanced to the round of 16.

Davenport had trouble closing out the match and lost her serve at 5-3 in the second set. She put it all together in her next service game and sealed the win.

Venus Williams struggled in her match against Cara Black of Zimbabwe before prevailing 6-4, 3-6, 6-0.

Serena Williams breezed to a straight set victory over Gala Leon Garcia of Spain 6-3, 6-1.

According to the draw, the Williams sisters could face each other in the semifinals. The sisters have squared off five times with Venus leading the series 4-1. Davenport is also in the same half of the draw and could meet Serena in the quarterfinals and Venus in the semis.

The $ 2.05 million women's tournament will continue for another week, while the men's $ 2.45 million competition starts Monday at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. *AP*

Norman vs Clavet

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — On a chilly morning, Magnus Norman held off Harel Levy of Israel 7-6 (3), 7-6 (8) Sunday in the rain-delayed semifinals of the Franklin Templeton Classic.

Norman would have little time to savor his victory. The third-seeded Swede advanced to face unseeded Francisco Clavet of Spain in the championship match later Sunday. Clavet upset defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, seeded fourth, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday. *AP*

Barcial tops in scooter

CARMONA, Cavite—Jaime Barcial made his presence felt with a smashing victory in the expert open class even as newcomer Robert Altea emerged as the only double winner in the kickoff leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Barcial, who is hoping to redeem himself from last year's disappointing finish, struck early and capitalized on the misfortune of two-time champion Jolet Jao and the absence of 1998 winner Carlo Yalo to clinch the morale-boosting victory.

The back-to-back victory gave Barcial a perfect score of 40 points under the 20-17-15-13-11 scoring system being used in this prestigious, seven-part series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell.

Mark Chua and Edwin Buenaventura finished in a tie for second to third places with 32 points, followed by Benjo Mendoza and Jao in fourth to fifth places with 23 points.

The biggest disappointment was Jao, who blew a commanding lead when he took a spill while negotiating a sharp curve in front of the grandstand and finished only sixth in the second and final heat. Jao was fourth in the first heat.

Yalo, the surprise winner over Jao in the inaugural season, begged off from participation until the second leg next month.

Shell karting set March 18

THE 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships resume with the second leg this Sunday with Jess Garcia of Kart 1 seeking a repeat of his smashing victory in the centerpiece Formula Super A category at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite.

Garcia, the 28-year-old lawyer from Cebu who took up karting seriously in 1997, served notice of his title aspirations by beating the Demvel's duo of Jess Cabalinan and Mon Tanjuatco in the kickoff leg on March 4.

"It's hard, but I'll try to win again in the next leg," said Garcia, who assumed the lead role in the Kart 1 Racing Team following the decision of last year's champion Philip Alvendia to concentrate in the team competition this year.

The other karters to watch in this prestigious series also supported by Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Nokia, Match Box/Hot Wheels and Eastway Racing Company are Angelo Barretto (Formula 125), Allan Uy (Intercon), Manuel Borja (FSL Light), Victor Yap (FSL Heavy) and Tyson Sy (Jr. Kt.).

For details, call Lot Tan or Rose Feria at tels. 817-2241 and 817-4988.

Excess derby on Thursday

THE "SPECIAL Ucap Excess Derby," a winner-take-all showdown between the President's Group and Chairman's group, will be staged on Thursday at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Super Feeds.

The submission of weights is tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event will start at 5 p.m. More than 75 fights have been lined up.

The Chairman's group (Meron) is composed of Patrick Antonio, -Ram Lopez, Tony Tan, Tito Reyes, Bobby Wong, Lito Orillaza, Boy "Lechon" de Roca, Biboy Enriquez and Raymond Velayo.

EDWIN BACASMAS.

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHP

GM Eugene Torre (right), National Chess Federation of the Philippines president, stresses a point during yesterday's press conference of the National Chess Championship at the Capitol Golf and Country Club. With Torre (from right) are lawyers Mat Defensor and Sammy Estimo and GM Joey Antonio. The P.75M-tournament starts March 24 at the Center Mall of the Greenhills Shpping Center, with the championship round slated April 2-11. The nation's three GMs—Torre, Antonio and Bong Villamayor—are entered.

Manila Southwoods makes history in Davidoff Tour

THE MANILA Southwoods made history in the Davidoff Tour when it became the first club to win the Venue of the Year award for the second straight year.

Robert John Lamb Sobrepeña, chair of the Manila Southwoods GCC, received the award from Ramian Dato Harun, executive director of the Asian PGA Tour, during the 6th annual Asian PGA gala Dinner held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Kuala Lumpur recently.

"This is another triumph for Philippine golf," said Sobrepeña upon arrival from Malaysia.

Sobrepeña said the award was won despite the fact that the Philippines hosted just one Asian Tour 2000 leg (Casino Filipino Open) with a $200,000 purse while its rivals staged multi-million dollar events in new courses designed by eminent golf architects.

Also, only 10 of the over 150 touring pros who voted were Filipinos, with the rest Asians, Europeans and Americans.

"The enormity of this milestone is such that we have set a standard for the other top clubs in the region to match or surpass," said Sobrepeña. "Staying as No. 1 is always a challenge and we'll make sure to contend for the award again next year."

Southwoods' success was in stark contrast to the Filipino pros' failure in the Davidoff Tour.

The last time a Filipino won in the Asian Tour was in 1998 through the eminent Frankie Miñoza and Sobrepeña is determined to produce another champion through the creation of a new circuit and the putting up of courses as beautiful and challenging as Southwoods.

Delasin fades as Rosales shines

IT took Jenny Rosales almost the whole season last year to secure her card for the 2001 LPGA Tour. With just five legs into the new season, Jenny's stint for next year is almost in the bag.

As compatriot Dorothy Joy Delasin bungled another bid, Jenny Rosales recorded another Top 10 finish yesterday after a closing three-under-par 69 in the Welch's/Circle-K Championship at the Randolph north course in Tucson, Arizona.

With the $14,223 she won, Rosales boosted her winnings for the season to $71,172, which is just $20,000 short of the needed money winnings that assure an LPGA campaigner of a guaranteed card for 2002. There are at least 30 legs in the LPGA schedule and the Tour is just on its sixth leg.

Delasin, meanwhile, remains without a Top 10 showing after a struggling windup sent the 2001 Tour top rookie to a share of 27th.

Sorenstam mastered the field with a final-round 65, winning by six strokes over Michelle McGann, Laura Diaz, Dottie Pepper and Korean ace Se Ri Pak. The Swede blistered the venue with a whopping 18-under par 265 aggregate for 72 holes.

Rosales knocked in five birdies, three of them coming home, for a big windup that gave her a share of 10th spot with four others in the $750,000 event won in runaway fashion by Sweden's Annika Sorenstam.

Among the top six players from the first to the third round, Delasin could only land in a tie for 27th with her three-over-par 75 marred by two double bogeys.

Delasin, whose best finish so far is 13th place in the Hawaiian swing of the Tour, pocketed $6,427 for a total of $25,937.

Both players are entered again for next week's next leg, the Standard Register Ping Championship. *Jong Arcano*

Tryon, 16, gets standing ovation

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida—Walking to the 18th green, Tom Lehman tucked his putter under his left arm and joined the gallery in celebration.

They were giving 16-year-old Ty Tryon an ovation he will never forget.

Tryon, a high school sophomore from Orlando, shot a 4-under-par 68 Sunday in the final round of the Honda Classic and finished his first PGA Tour event at 10-under-par.

"I can't believe it's over, but at least I had a great round today," Tryon said.

He was off the leaderboard, but he's now on everyone's radar screen.

"If I would have played in a PGA Tour event when I was 16, I wouldn't have broken 80," said Lehman, the 1996 British Open champion who played the final round with Tryon. "I would have been so uptight and nervous and so overwhelmed by the surroundings."

Doing something that even Tiger Woods never accomplished, Tryon made the cut in his first PGA tournament—becoming the second youngest player to make the cut in a tour event.

Bob Panasik was 15 years and 8 months old when he made the cut at the 1957 Canadian Open. At 16 years and 9 months old, Tryon had rounds of 67-73-70-68 on the par-72 TPC at Heron Bay.

Woods was nine months younger than Tryon when he was given a sponsor's exemption into the Los Angeles Open in 1992. But he missed the cut with rounds of 72-75.

TYRON

Tryon was a Monday qualifier for the Honda Classic but won't have to work to make next year's field. After his performance, he was awarded one of the eight sponsor's exemptions for the 2002 event.

Tryon, who trains at the prestigious David Leadbetter Golf Academy, birdied four holes _ including the first two _ on the front nine. Then birdied No. 10 to move to 11 under.

But he missed a 5-foot (1.5-meter) putt on No. 12 and a 3-foot (1-meter) putt on No. 13 to drop back to 9 under. He birdied the 14th to get back to 10 under.

Then, for the second consecutive day, he played a great shot in front of a packed gallery on No. 18.

Aiming for the tightly tucked pin on the right side of the green, Tryon's approach shot came up short and landed in a hazard. But hitting a wedge from the mud, his chip shot stopped 15 feet (five meters) from the hole. He calmly drained the downhill putt to save par.

With the exception of his golf game, Tryon's youthfulness was apparent this week.

He celebrated like no one else on many shots. He was stunned by autograph seekers. His bag _ obviously made for walking _ was the only one in the field Sunday with leg stands on it. It also was about 8 kilograms lighter than any of the others, his caddie said.

Even though he can't collect the prize money, he may have needed it more than anyone else. "I want a new amp for my car," said Tryon, who would have been guaranteed $ 6,400 for making the cut. "But it's like $ 180."

He also was the only player in the field who didn't need a razor. "He bought one recently, but I think it just sits there," said his father, Bill.

Nonetheless, he looked like a seasoned veteran.

Now Tryon has to go back to playing amateur tournaments.

"I'm sure they'll be jabbing me a little bit," he said.

And he won't get as much support from the gallery. "It'll look like a wasteland. I'll see the rest of the course now." *AP*

Jalasco disbands team after 'election'

By June Navarro

THE MAJORITY of the men's national basketball team, composed mostly of MBA stalwarts, and several Youth members threw their support yesterday behind Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

Literal has continued to question the presidency of Freddie Jalasco of the Basketball Association of the Philippines despite the recent recognition won by Jalasco from Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"It was a difficult choice. But we are ready to face any punishment for supporting Tiny," said coach Boysie Zamar, acting as the players' spokesman.

The "punishment" is for Zamar and his team to be disbanded and replaced with an entirely new squad.

This was in keeping with the pre-voting threat of Jalasco that he would disband the team should he lose in the confidence vote.

Jalasco said he would replace the players with a selection of cagers from the Philippine Basketball League, Philippine Basketball Association and the Metropolitan Basketball Association.

"As much as I want to keep them, I have no choice but to remove them," said Jalasco. "They have questioned the authority and decision of the POC, the supreme body of sports in the country."

Zamar served as spokesman during yesterday's players' assembly at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Jalasco came to the meeting in the company of MBA commissioner Ogie Narvasa and former Asian Basketball Confederation secretary-general Moying Martelino.

"I will respect whatever decision they will make. But as far as the POC is concerned, I have every right to decide the fate of the team," said Jalasco.

Zamar refused to disclose the players who voted against Jalasco. He said "it was a majority decision."

Aside from Zamar, those who voted were national team members Rommel Adducul, Stephen Padilla, Cris Calaguio, Homer Se, Jomar Tierra, Omanzie Rodriguez, Vince Hizon, Chito Victolero, Peter Martin, Eddie Laure, Ruben dela Rosa, John Ferriols, Egay Echavez, Marc Pingres, Jun Tamayo, Maren Padrenas, Joshua Ramirez, MC Caceres, Ronnie Zagala, and assistant coaches Bong Ramos, Gino Manuel and Robert Flores were also present and joined the balloting.

National youth players Marc Pingres, Jun Tamayo, Maren Padronza and Joshua Ramirez were also present and joined the balloting.

Iverson injured

BOSTON—Allen Iverson, the National Basketball Association leader in points, steals and minutes, left Sunday's game against the Boston Celtics in the second quarter with a bruised left hip. After the game, which Philadelphia won 97-91, he walked with only a slight limp.

NBA RESULTS

New York 86, Miami 83, Philadelphia 97, Boston 91; Toronto 101, Vancouver 84; Sacramento 105, Utah 90; Detroit 95, Indiana 78; Cleveland 124, Milwaukee 110; Phoenix 94, Houston 92; Dallas 111, L.A. Clippers 93; Seattle 109, L.A. Lakers 97, OT. *AP*

Lakers test Koreans today

(From page A18)

encounter between the Philippine Men's Team and Wang's Ball Club.

Composed mainly of MBA stars, the Nationals are slight picks over the less talented but more cohesive Wang's Ball Club, the Inter-Municipalities titlist under the banner of Mandaluyong.

Led by four-time ABC All Star Romel Adducul and 1999 MBA MVP John Ferriols, the Nationals are honing up for the Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship next month.

Cebu Lhuillier, the fifth team in the single-round tournament organized by the National Basketball League and supported by Federal Express and Healthy Options, drew a bye and will tackle Laguna tomorrow.

The Jewelers, who'll be reinforced by seven-time PBA best import Bobby Parks for this tourney, ruled the National Inter-Club in Dagupan City and the just-concluded President's Cup of the Cebuano Basketball League.

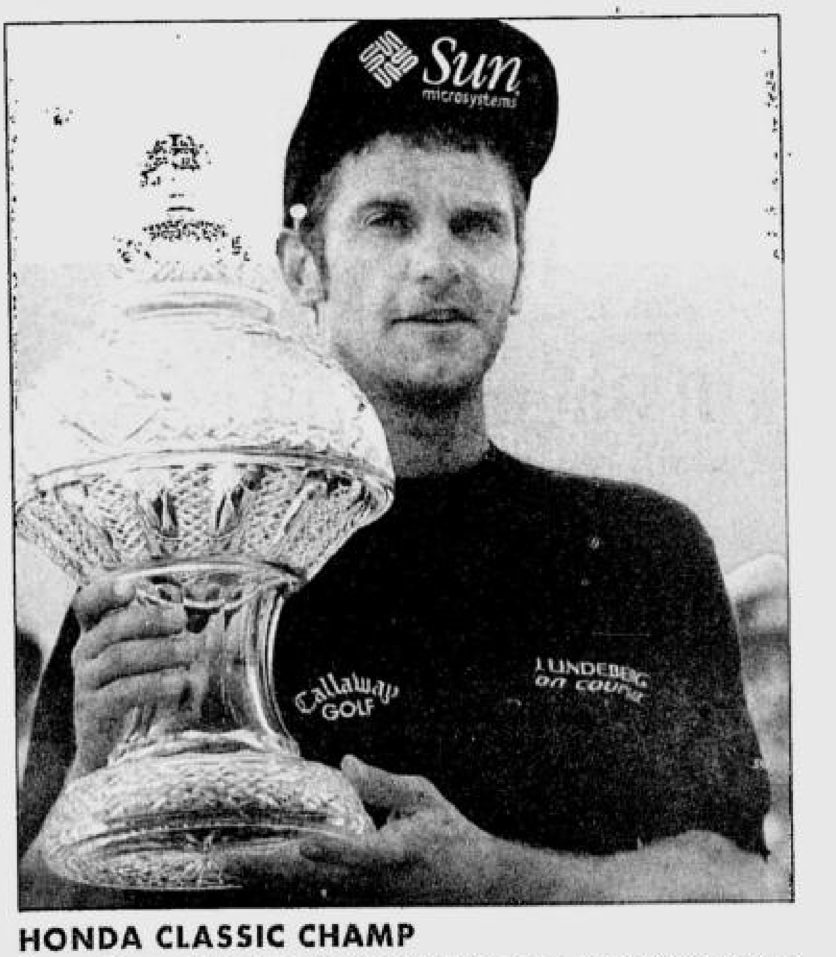
Legendary scorer Shing Dong Pa, delegation head of the Korean team, will be missing Joonang's game against Laguna. He will plane in from Seoul tomorrow.

The Lakers, champions in the 7-nation Cheng Zhenggong Cup last year, will draw firepower from Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers and Biboy Simon.

"This tournament featuring the Koreans is a step in the right direction for us if we want to keep abreast with our Asian neighbors," said Lina, godfather of the Philippine Youth team.

Also gracing the opening ceremonies are civic leader Jam Mercado, NBL president Christian Tan, tournament director Johnny Tam and the BAP's Tiny Literal and lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan.

From Sta. Cruz, the teams will proceed to Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba and then to the Aquino Stadium in San Pablo City, where the championship will be held on Sunday. *Roy Luarca*



HONDA CLASSIC CHAMP

Jesper Parnevik hoists the trophy symbollic of his victory in the Honda Classic yesterday in Coral Springs, Florida. Parnevik shot an even-par 72, closing at 18 under and beating Mark Calcavecchia, Geoff Ogilvy and Craig Perks by a stroke for his first win this season on the PGA Tour. Calcavecchia (70), Ogilvy (69) and Perks (66) finished in a three-way tie for third place. Parnevik won for the fifth time on the Tour and collected $ 576,000. AP

AIM golfest slated March 23 at Sta. Elena

THE ASIAN Institute of Management Alumni Association will hold its golf tournament on March 23 at Sta. Elena.

The event is part of the association's general homecoming on March 30 at the Rockwell Tennis Courts, Makati City.

Organizers said this year's theme is "AIM 2001…the Odyssey Continues."

Bobby Cabral, chair of the 2001 Alumni Homecoming Steering Committee, said the event will serve as a forum for classmates of different batches to re-establish their networks and enjoy a program specially prepared for the night.

Admiral Luisito Fernandez (ret.), the event's vice chair, has called on alumni-golfers to get in touch with the secretariat at tel. 751-7151 for more details.

Gov. Piñol offers Pacquiao to fight in Cotabato

GOV. Manny Piñol of Kidapawan, Cotabato, has offered international boxing promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde, Jr. to stage the forthcoming WBC International Championship defense of Manny Pacquiao in Kidapawan, Cotabato.

Promoter Bebot Elorde Jr. said he will finalize talks about the fight on Thursday when Piñol arrives in Manila from Cotabato.

Pacquiao is scheduled to defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) International Bantamweight Crown against Thai Wethya Sakmuangklang.

It will be Pacquiao's fifth defense of the crown. Aside from Pacquiao, the Rubillar brothers—Juanito and Ernesto—will also be defending their respective titles.

Juanito Rubillar collides with Fahsang Paw Pongsawang for the WBC international lightflyweight title while elder brother Ernesto will battle Surachai Saengmorokot for the WBC international minimum weight crown.

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Water polo season set

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Swimming Association unreels its year 2001 water polo activities with its 3-on-3 Water Polo Series. The 1st of the three series will open on March 17-18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Rizal Memorial. This year's 3-on-3 Water Polo Series will see that advent of junior teams from Metro Manila. For more information, call Boying Santos-Viola at 834-2436.

Lakers test Koreans today

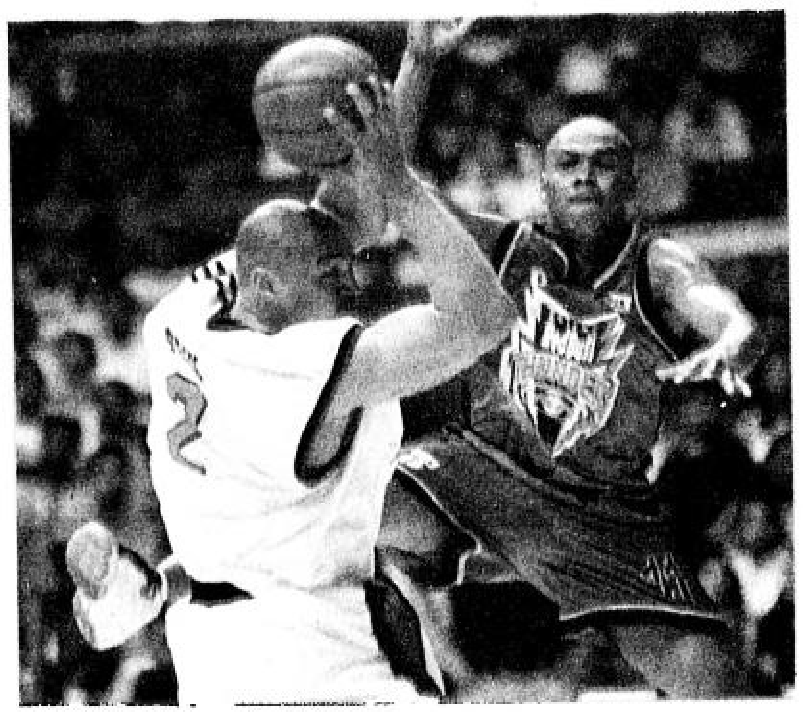
2 p.m.— Opening Ceremonies
3 p.m.—Joonang University (Korea) vs Laguna Lakers
5 p.m.—RP Men's Team vs Wang's Ball Club

THE LAGUNA Lakers get the first chance to scale South Korea's Joonang University quadruple towers when the 1st Bert Lina-Jam Mercado Battle of the Champions begins today at the RECS Sta. Cruz Complex in Laguna.

Joonang, a four-time champion of the National University Games in Seoul, boasts of stratospheric centers Kim Kwang Won (6-foot-10) Kim Joo sung (6-9), Cho San Hun (6-9) and Choi Bong hyun (6-7). It also has an array of sweet-shooters that should make them at par with their older rivals.

Slated after the 2 p.m. opening ceremony, the game precedes the 5 p.m.

LAKERS TEST/ A17



NICE TRY

Red Bull's prized rookie Willie Miller (right) jumps high to harass muscular Ali Peek of Alaska last Sunday in the PBA All-Filipino Conference at Araneta Coliseum. Miller's effort was not enough to stop Alaska from beating Red Bull, 95-76. ROMY HOMILLADA

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: ACC Tournament, Semifinal #2 at 8 a.m., Big 10 Tournament, Quarterfinal #1 at 1 p.m. on ESPN

CNBL, Semifinals at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA—San Antonio Spurs vs LA Lakers at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Franklin Templeton, Finals at 2 p.m. (r – midnight) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA - The Honda Classic, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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Secondary Safety Device
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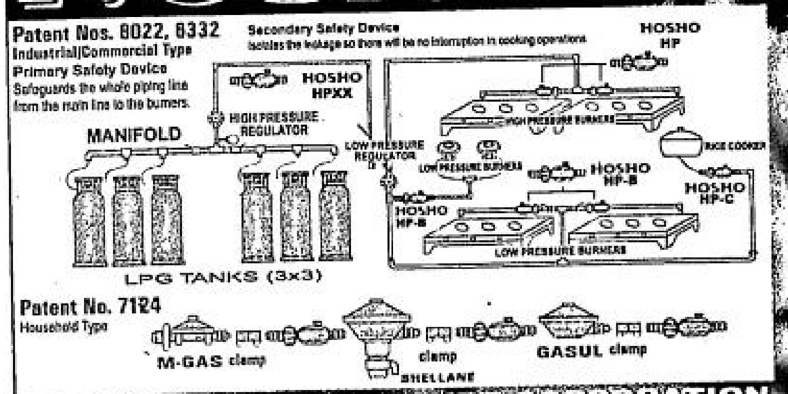

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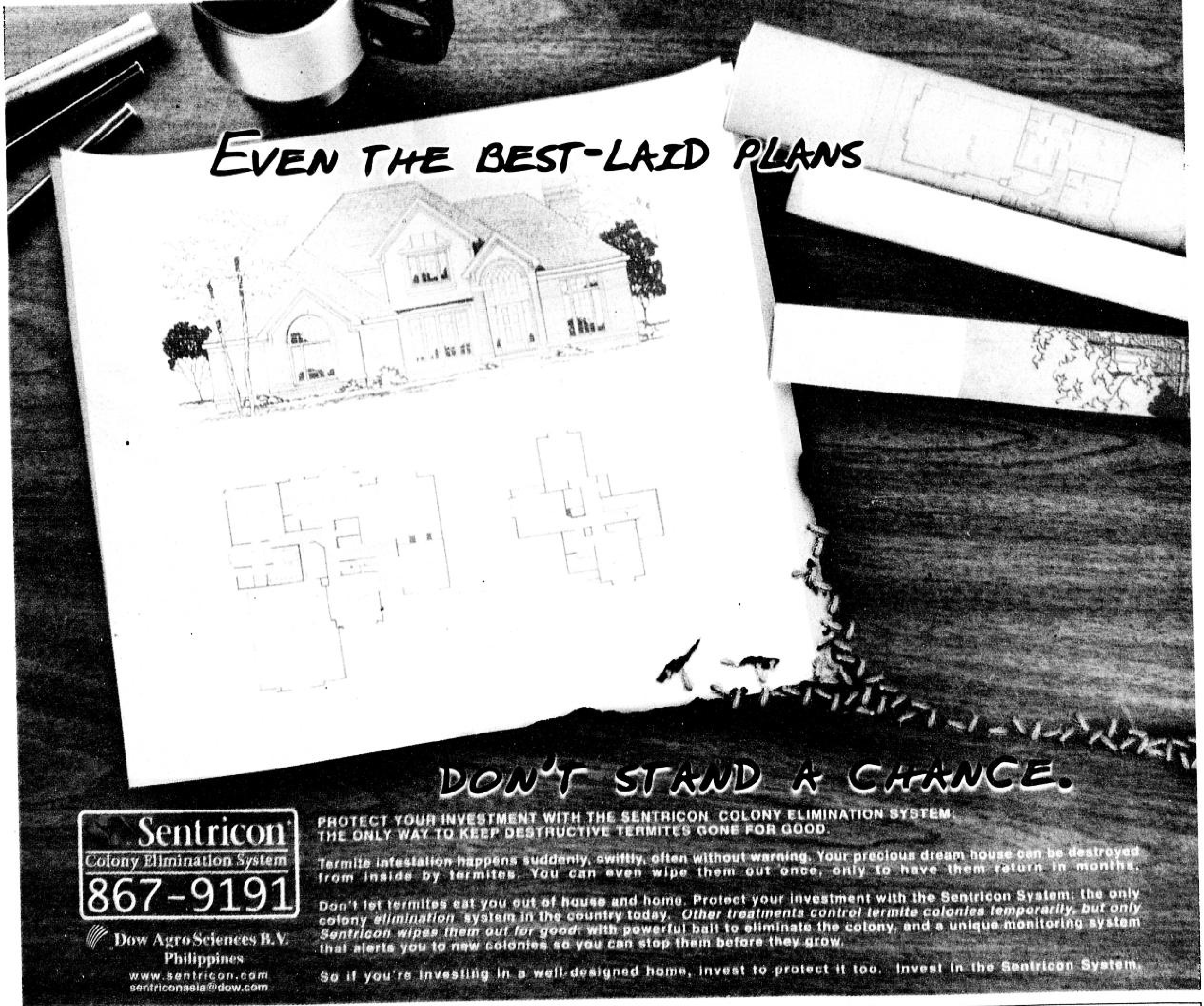

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Mathay blamed for death of 4 sick children
A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Woman accuses 3 cops

A YOUNG woman yesterday accused three members of the Western Police District of stealing her money worth P45,000 and cellular phone worth P7,000 when the policemen detained her at the Islamic Center in San Miguel, Manila on suspicion that she was peddling drugs. Businesswoman Kris Magoon, married, of Dimasalang Street in Pasay City, identified one of the policemen as PO2 Francis Manago, assigned at the police community precinct on Palanca Street. The precinct is under WPD-Station 8.

Jerome Aning

FVR backs probe of Jinggoy

ESTRADA

RAMOS

By Stella O. Gonzales

THE RAMOS administration distributed ambulances from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office based on health needs, not on political consideration.

Former President Fidel Ramos made this assertion yesterday to overturn the claim of San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada that even during Ramos' time, the head of the League of Municipalities (LMP) was authorized to name the recipients of PCSO ambulances.

"I deny categorically this statement of Jinggoy regarding the role of his predecessor, LMP president Agnes Devanadera (then mayor of Sampaloc, Quezon), in the distribution of PCSO ambulances," Ramos said in his marginal notes to an Inquirer story.

That story quoted Estrada, who is the incumbent LMP president, as saying that there was nothing irregular in his distribution of 246 ambulances to various municipalities.

Estrada said that this was the practice of the LMP head even during Ramos' administration.

The new PCSO administration has ordered an investigation of Estrada's distribution of the vehicles, saying these were not properly documented.

Ramos backed the PCSO investigation.

"Jinggoy should indeed be further investigated for this," Ramos stressed.

Ramos explained that, during his presidency, the distribution of ambulances was done through the Cabinet Officers for Regional Development (CORDs), members of the Cabinet who were assigned as coordinators of a specific region. A three-man committee composed of then Undersecretary Ben de Leon (representing the Office of the President), a health undersecretary and a representative of the PCSO chair made the recommendations to the CORDs.

"As President, I approved the well-coordinated recommendations of the Committee of Three based on health needs, not the political color/considerations of the requesting (local government unit)," Ramos explained.

PCSO chair Honey Girl de Leon had said that the previous PCSO board might have been remiss in laying the responsibility of distributing ambulances primarily on Estrada as LMP president.

She pointed out that the vehicles were released in 1998 but the LMP could not produce documentation for 186 units until now.

Naia cop leaves trail of terror; housewife dies of horror

By Philip C. Tubeza

A HORRIFIED housewife died after he pointed a pistol at her. He next assaulted a barangay official right inside a Quezon City police station on Sunday night.

Michael B. Bautista, 35, a Ninoy Aquino International Airport policeman, of 26 Cairo St., Bahay Toro, Quezon City was arrested yesterday after housewife Milagros M. Maldo, of 79-C Shorthorn St., Project 8, also in Bahay Toro, dropped dead when the suspect threatened her with his caliber .45 pistol.

SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda, case investigator, said that before the fatal incident, the suspect also threatened tricycle driver Serafin S. Labajo, 39, and Maldo's niece Raquel C. Vibora, 24, with his gun during a traffic altercation.

After the trouble, Bautista also assaulted Barangay Bahay Toro security officer Danilo R. Romitman, 52, during a confrontation right inside the Sangandaan police station.

Because of this abusive behavior, Bautista was charged yesterday with violating the election gun ban, direct assault on a person of authority and grave threats resulting in a death.

The suspect's trail of terror started when the Galant car he was riding struck Labajo's tricycle, which had Vibora as passenger, at the corner of Assistance Street and Road 20 in Bahay Toro around 9:45 p.m. Sunday.

Bautista, who was allegedly drunk, got out of the car and next had a heated argument with Labajo. Even then, the suspect was allegedly already threatening Labajo and Vibora, though he still did not show his gun.

The two parties then proceeded to the Traffic Sector Four office to file charges against

NAIA COP/ A20

Now, it's 3-month garbage solution

AFTER failing with his 15-day garbage solution, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday promised that a long-term answer to Metro Manila's garbage problem would be in place in three months.

Abalos yesterday said the MMDA would be opening a letter of credit with a still undisclosed bank to import equipment that would be used for waste management.

He said the MMDA would be acquiring two shredding machines, each of which could process 60 tons of garbage per hour.

Abalos also gave the assurance that the MMDA would be able to cover the funds needed for the acquisition of the shredders.

The machines, to be imported from Australia and the United States, cost about $330,000 and $250,000, respectively.

The shredders, along with 40-foot container vans which the MMDA earlier purchased, would be set up at Pier 18 of the Manila North Harbor to serve as composting bins.

Agnes S. Donato

9 lawmen get life terms A20

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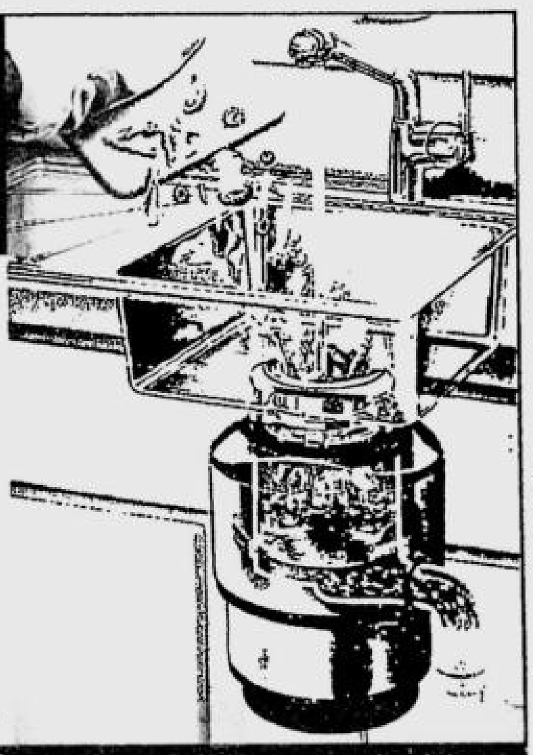

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POWER PRESENTATION SKILLS
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Monday - Wednesday

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

DEMYSTIFYING THE BUSINESS CREATION
April 2 - 6, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday

BUILDING THE ENTERPRISE (STRENGTHENING THE BUSINESS PLAN)
May 5,12,19,26 & June 2, 2001
9:00 am - 5:00 pm • Saturdays

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TOTAL QUALITY AND THE FILIPINO MANAGER
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May 16 - 18, 2001 • 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
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PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH SYSTEMATIC MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT
June 4 - 7, 2001 • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
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NEGOTIATION SKILLS
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SERVICE EXCELLENCE SERIES

PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY
March 19 - 21, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Wednesday

CUSTOMER RELATIONS EFFECTIVENESS WORKSHOP
April 17 & 18, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

MANAGING THE SUPPLY CHAIN
April 16 - 20, 2001 • 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Monday - Friday

DEMAND MANAGEMENT
April 20 & 27, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm • Fridays

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April 23 & 26, 2001 • 2:00 am - 6:00 pm
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BANKING AND FINANCE

RISK MANAGEMENT
March 26 - 30, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday

LEASING: THE FINANCING ALTERNATIVE
March 27 - 31, 2001
9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Saturday)
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ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
April 2 - 4, 2001 • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Wednesday

FUNDAMENTALS OF CORPORATE FINANCE
April 30 - May 4
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Monday - Wednesday)
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An asset to her mother

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVANGELINE Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, the President's daughter, is an asset to her mother because she's an unassuming, low-profile young woman.

I'm sure many people who watched her last Sunday at Boy Abunda's show at ABS-CBN's Channel 21 were impressed by her humble attitude.

Asked by Abunda why she didn't want to be treated special, being a presidential daughter, Ms Arroyo replied: "*Sabit lang kami* (We're just hangers-on)." The "*kami*" or "we" she was apparently also referring to her siblings.

"However people treated me before, they should treat me the same way now," she said.

* * *

The pretty Ms Arroyo comes as a very refreshing sight and sound to the citizenry after the swaggering and villain-looking son of deposed President Erap, Jinggoy.

Jinggoy, mayor of San Juan and a poor clone of his father, thought he held presidential powers by virtue of his being a presidential son.

He once had the chief of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office sacked because the poor guy asked him to undergo a neuro-psychiatric test before he could be issued a gun license. A neuro-psychiatric exam is a pre-requisite to owning a gun.

* * *

Jinggoy—the name sounds like a tree-climbing creature that imitates human beings—used his father's powers to force the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to give him ambulances. He distributed ambulances to municipal mayors who used them to transport their sick constituents but their wives and children.

The ambulances were his bribe to the mayors in exchange for their supporting him if he ran for the Senate. He didn't run because he knows winning would be next to impossible at this time.

Another abusive act committed by Jinggoy was smoking aboard a Philippine Airlines jet to Los Angeles after being told it was a no-smoking flight. Smoking on a flight to the US, even if the aircraft is not yet over American territory, is a federal offense. The pilot of the offending aircraft could lose his license and the plane would be impounded in the US.

It's a good thing Erap was deposed because Jinggoy could have been a strong senatorial candidate. Imagine having a goon in the Senate in addition to the do-nothing and inarticulate buffoons already there!

* * *

The gall of the National Press Club to propose itself as a replacement of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in conducting a quick count of the results of the May elections!

I'm a member of the NPC myself but I find it ludicrous that an institution whose yearly elections are marred by fraud and vote-buying should offer to displace an institution known for its probity.

* * *

But I can guess who's behind the proposal to junk Namfrel in favor of the NPC: "Don" Emilio Yap, owner of the Manila Bulletin, once a proud newspaper. Yap insists in having "Don" precede his name because he thinks he exercises power and influence over Philippine government and politics.

Yap, whose boys have been lording it over the NPC for a decade, wants his dream translated into reality should the NPC be appointed the election quick-count watchdog.

Yap, who amassed wealth selling Army jeeps junked by the US Army, is not satisfied with using his newspaper to perpetuate his supposed influence with the top guns in government. He knows that knowledgeable readers don't take his newspaper seriously. The newspaper is a mouthpiece of whoever is in power.

* * *

Senatorial candidates of the People's Power Coalition were allegedly barred from campaigning at the Tutuban Center Mall, which is run by the Manila city government, and from Plaza Miranda. They were also allegedly prevented from holding a rally on a playground outside the Manila Zoo.

In all those incidents, Mayor Lito Atienza, who's seeking reelection in the opposition camp, is being blamed.

But those who know Atienza will tell you he's not the kind of man who would bar candidates from a rival faction from campaigning in his 'territory.

Atienza is too well entrenched to think about harassing his political enemies. He's that confident of winning, according to Kim Wong, the mayor's principal campaigner.

* * *

The administration's prediction that its senatorial candidates will score a 13-0 sweep is next to impossible.

As things stand now, the opposition ticket has at least three candidates who are sure of making it to the "Magic 13": Noli de Castro, Panfilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara. They are among the opposition candidates who were included in the list of winning candidates in a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations between Feb. 22 and 25.

The other candidates, in the winning circle, the SWS survey showed, were Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor Santiago.

If the opposition campaigned hard enough, Juan Ponce Enrile, Orlando Mercado, Ricardo "Dong" Puno and former First Lady Loi Ejercito might land in the Magic 13.

Remember, former President Erap, the opposition's principal campaigner, still has many sympathizers among the poor and people of Mindanao.

* * *

Some employees at the National Computer Center have become so brazen as to stage a strike against their boss, Director General Ike Seneres.

Don't these guys know that it's illegal for government employees to strike? And yet, the government seems to condone their behavior because they have not been dismissed.

The striking employees' reason? They allegedly are demanding that Seneres, brother of National Labor Relations Commission Chair Roy Seneres, resign because he was appointed by Erap. Since Erap is already gone, they say Seneres should also resign. Stupid!

Mathay blamed for death of 4 sick children

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

URBAN poor residents of Quezon City yesterday blamed Mayor Ismael Mathay for the death of four sick children, including two infants, when he allowed the violent demolition of shanties in Balintawak last week.

"We condemn the demolition and seek justice for our children," said Linda Tapay, aunt of one of the four dead children. "Mayor Mathay, who did not postpone the demolition despite the children's illness, is responsible for the tragedy."

According to the Urban Poor Associates, the children fell ill when an outbreak of measles struck the community just before the demolition.

The children's condition worsened after their homes were demolished.

Roselyn Marabot, 10, her sister Roselle, 5, Rodmart Mendez, 11 months, and year-old Jessica Catindoy died shortly after the demolition of the slum area on Old Samson Road, Balintawak, Quezon City on March 5 and 9, the UPA said in a press statement.

"(The children) were placed in pushcarts and left on the streets during the night because their shanties where destroyed," the UPA said. "Their deaths were caused by viral infection. Change in weather condition and exposure to the elements triggered their relapse."

Four other children, who were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center and the San Lazaro Hospital, are still in critical condition, the UPA added.

"We may have lost not just our home but our children," said Rustico Marabot, the father of Roselyn and Rosello. His other two children are still in the hospital.

The UPA also accused Mathay of violating a memorandum which Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena issued for the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

In her memorandum, Garchitorena called on HUDCC officials to "review all guidelines on demolition of squatter colonies and relocation of informal settlers in consultation with NGOs and urban poor groups."

Jack Jacutin, head of the city's Anti-Vendor Unit, demolished the homes of 50 poor families and lined up 50 more for eviction.

Jacutin said the urban poor were evicted because they were not residents of the area "before 1995, the cut-off date provided for the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992."

9 lawmen get life

BY JEROME ANING

THREE of eight former policemen charged with the 1993 murder of two brothers in Cavite sit passively as they listen to the verdict of Manila Judge Luis Arranz yesterday. The court found the eight men and a civilian law enforcer guilty.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

A MANILA judge sentenced eight policemen and a civilian law enforcer to life in prison for the summary execution of two brothers in Maragondon, Cavite almost eight years ago.

Manila regional trial court Judge Luis Arranz found guilty Insp. Francisco Alhambra, SPO3 Leon Sante, SPO2 Virgilio Zamora, SPO2 Virgilio Manabo, SPO1 Alberto Nepomuceno, SPO1 Rene Ambat, SPO1 Domingo de Salit and PO3 Constancio Lagtu, all members of the Carmona Police Station; and Renato Morales, a member of the town's junior police squad.

The nine were accused of murdering Rolando and Gerardo Purificacion, and wounding another brother, Vicente, in 1993.

In an 11-page decision, Judge Arranz of Manila RTC Branch 11 said the nine accused failed to prove that they killed the brothers in "self-defense." The judge sentenced each of them to two life terms plus 14 years in jail for the attempted murder of a third victim.

The third man, Vicente, survived the attack and became the prosecution's main witness in the trial.

Judge Arranz said he could not impose the death sentence because the crime took place in 1993, before the death penalty law took effect.

The judge also ordered the nine men to pay the victims' heirs P177,800 in civil and actual damages.

Vicente and the victims' father Narciso, accompanied by members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, cheered the verdict.

VACC executive officer Janete Gonzaga praised Vicente for his courage in testifying.

Gonzaga said the group hopes the conviction would serve as a warning to all abusive policemen and speed up the campaign to weed out scalawags in the police ranks.

Defense lawyer Sigfrid Fortun said they would appeal the case before the Supreme Court.

The accused, who were on bail, were ordered detained at the city jail before they are transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons.

Court records showed the suspects, armed with a warrant issued by a Carmona municipal court, went to Barangay San Miguel in Maragondon about 5 a.m. on July 15, 1993 to arrest Gerardo and Narciso for pending criminal cases.

The police team surrounded the victims' huts, identified themselves as lawmen and told the Purificacions to give up peacefully.

But Alhambra said that instead of surrendering, the Purificacions opened fire.

A 15-minute gun battle took place and when the smoke cleared, Gerardo and Rolando lay dead on the ground, their bodies riddled with bullets.

Vicente was injured but was able to escape. He was taken to the Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital in Trece Martirez City, Cavite, and was later transferred to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

In his testimony, Vicente said he was asleep when he was awakened by gunfire. He said he went out of his hut to go to Rolando's hut but the policemen fired on him.

Vicente was wounded and fell into a ditch. He said he crawled out and, from a distance, saw Gerardo being shot and killed.

Vicente then sought the help of barangay officials. He also contacted two Maragondon policemen and asked them not to turn him over to the Carmona police.

Narciso later sought the help of the CAV, which referred the case to the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

Dr. Rowell Ronald Baluyot, medicolegal officer of the National Bureau of Investigation Region 4, testified that Rolando and Gerardo were shot in the back.

Forensic chemist Mary Ann Aranas also conducted paraffin tests on the brothers and learned that Rolando and Vicente did not fire a gun. Gerardo tested positive for gunpowder residues on his left hand, but it turned out he was a right-handed man.

Aranas found only two spent shells in Rolando's .38-caliber firearm and none in Gerardo's carbine.

With a report from AFP

11 passengers hurt in Skyway

ELEVEN bus passengers were seriously injured and left to fend for themselves when the bus they were riding rammed into a post of the Skyway along the South Luzon Expressway in Makati the other night.

The still unidentified driver and conductor of the bus escaped from the scene right after the accident.

Ricardo Ortiz of the Skyway Patrol identified those injured as Nestor Gonzaga, 30; Joseph de Ora, 20; Salvacion Vicente, 38; all of Sucat, Parañaque; Marita Manzanares, 20, from Samal, Bataan; Joy Lyn Maliag, 20; 982 Sampaloc St., Barangay Lower Bicutan, Taguig; Sosimo Palumares, 24, Garry Palma, 31; Jonathan Sumampong, 23; Arthur Liboon, 44; Myra Jennifer Liboon, 11; and Christian Puno, 28.

According to a report prepared by the Skyway patrol, the passengers were riding a bus of the Tumawis Bus Liner with Plate No. PWH-456 at around 9:10 p.m.

The bus was travelling Southbound near the Magallanes interchange in Makati when one of its tires exploded. This caused the driver to lose control until the bus rammed into one of the Skyway posts.

The victims were immediately rushed to the Makati Medical Center and the Ospital ng Makati by members of the Skyway Patrol and other concerned motorists. *Alcuin Papa*

'Aray' bold actor stabbed in sister's b-day party

JACINTO

A MALE bold actor who appeared in the Nini Jacinto movie "Aray" as the bold star's brother was stabbed and wounded while attending his real sister's birthday party in Quezon City.

Actor Justine Romero—Randy Nunez in real life—suffered a stab wound in the armpit and in the foot after security guard Ramolito Valdez, 27, attacked him with a fan knife, said investigator PO1 Rey Bural.

Nunez, of 5-A Cenacle Drive, Sunville Subdivision in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City was in his sister's birthday party in their compound when he noticed a commotion about 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, police said.

Suspect Valdez, who was a guest at the party and had been drinking, was said to be already annoying other party guests.

Nunez approached Valdez and tried to calm him down. But Valdez allegedly got angrier and a heated argument erupted between him and the actor.

At the height of their altercation, Valdez brought out a fan knife lunged at Nunez with it.

"They grappled for control of the knife. But Valdez was able to stab the victim in his left armpit," said investigator Bural.

Valdez was about to go again for Nunez, who managed to parry the thrust with his right foot, which got wounded, anyway.

Other guests then ganged up on Valdez and beat him up.

Nunez was brought to the Quezon City General Hospital where doctors declared him to be in a stable condition.

But Valdez was arrested and brought to the Sangandaan police station, then later charged with attempted homicide before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office police said.

Mel Lopez cries foul, hits City Hall; aide defends city mayor

FORMER Manila Mayor Mel Lopez yesterday lamented what he called the "lack of professionalism" among several city officials who reportedly barred the administration's senatorial candidates from holding a rally at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo and campaigning at the Tutuban Mall in Tondo.

Lopez said campaigning during elections is a basic freedom guaranteed by the Constitution and no candidates should be barred from holding rallies in public places. He added that city officials are duty-bound to abide by the rule.

City Halls officials, however, quickly twitted several senatorial candidates from the People Power Coalition for "maliciously imputing" the fiasco on Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a supporter of ousted President Estrada.

Melchor Monsod, city legal officer, said Tutuban was a private facility and the city government does not determine who should be allowed to enter the place.

"Plaza Miranda is a freedom park and any individual who wishes to go there and deliver a speech can do so," he added. "But a rally where a stage should be built should be covered by an appropriate permit so that order in all its aspects can be maintained."

Lopez, a coordinator of the PPC's activities in the capital, said their motorcade was supposed to start in Tutuban and culminate with a proclamation rally and meeting at the Leveriza playground in Malate.

He said permits to the proclamation rally and motorcade were filed March 7 and granted two days later by Bureau of Permits officer in charge Flora Go.

"They never applied for a permit to build or bring in a stage at Plaza Miranda, so why are they now blaming the city government?" Monso countered. "*Sila ang pumalpak tapos kami ang sisisihin nila.*"

Lopez said there was an additional request for a mini-rally in Plaza Miranda but it came too late. But even so, district leaders, councilors and barangay officials in Tondo and Quiapo assured the PPC that their sorties would be "smooth."

Atienza running mate, former city administrator and retired colonel Ernesto Dionisio, criticized the PPC for accusing Atienza of being biased against the administration bets.

In a statement, he said the mayor is "a known libertarian and it is unfair to even suggest that he had a hand in preventing anyone from exercising their (sic) political rights." *Jerome Aning*

Naia cop leaves trail of terror . . .

(From page A19)

each other. While SPO3 Ricardo Scorpiso was trying to get the statements of the two squabbling groups, the suspect suddenly pulled out his pistol and pointed it at the two complainants.

Maldo, who had just arrived to check on her niece, did not escape the suspect's wrath.

Bautista allegedly pointed his pistol at the shocked housewife, who there and then collapsed on the floor and fell unconscious, Barrameda said.

Maldo was brought to the Quezon City General Hospital but she was declared dead on arrival around 10:05 p.m., Barrameda added.

With Maldo's death, the suspect was brought to the Sangandaan police station for the criminal case that would be filed against him.

But instead of calming down, the suspect even became more agitated.

Romitman went to the station around midnight to submit the barangay reports about the earlier traffic incident. He was calling one of the complainants when the suspect suddenly confronted him.

"Whoa re you? Why are you intervening in matters that are none of your business?" the investigator quoted the suspect as saying.

When Romitman answered that he was a barangay security official, the suspect allegedly attacked him.

"P*^&% I*& mo! So you're just a barangay security man," Bautista allegedly shouted before he proceeded to kick Romitman on his right knee.

The suspect would have inflicted more injuries on the officer if not for the timely intervention of the policemen in the station.

To ensure his security and the persons around him, Bautista was transferred to Camp Karingal and put behind bars at the Criminal Investigation Unit detention cell.

Barrameda said Bautista would be charged with homicide once Maldo's autopsy showed that she died out of fright or of a heart attack because of Bautista's threats.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
3	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
8	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
6	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
8	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
4	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CAST AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
7	DTS	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
9	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
6	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

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1	LIVESHOW	
2	MS. CONGENIALITY	
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY	
4	DRACULA 2000	

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	ALMOST FAMOUS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	MS. CONGENIALITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MS. CONGENIALITY THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	INNOCENCE (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CAST AWAY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	DRACULA 2000	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	HANNIBAL	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	LIVESHOW	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	MS. CONGENIALITY	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HANNIBAL	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	MS. CONGENIALITY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	HANNIBAL	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	DRACULA 2000	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALMOST FAMOUS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LIVESHOW	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DRACULA 2000
2 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4 GOLD (DTS)	HANNIBAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MS. CONGENIALITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TIGER LAND
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
8	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9	HOSTAGE
10	LIVE SHOW

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	BLONDIE
3 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	MS CONGENIALITY
2 (DTS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	LIVE SHOW

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	DRACULA 2000
3	LIVE SHOW

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	HOSTAGE
3	LIVE SHOW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DRACULA 2000

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	RESERVE
3	HOSTAGE
4	LIVE SHOW
5	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	HANNIBAL
7	DRACULA 2000
8	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

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3	RED PLANET
4	SUMMER HEAT
5	–
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
2	READY TO RUMBLE
3	GOSSIP
4	KANGKONG

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOSTAGE
2	CAST AWAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	LIVE SHOW
3	DEMON GATE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
A	DEMON GATE

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	BLONDIE
3	

GOLDESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	HOSTAGE
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	LIVE SHOW
7 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
8 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
9 (DOLBY)	MS. CONGENIALITY

Caloocan
tel 362.3500

2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	HOSTAGE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	HOSTAGE
2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 (SDDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	LIVE SHOW
6 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
7 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
8	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	TUSONG TWOSOME
5 (SDDS)	HANNIBAL
6	HOSTAGE
7 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
8	LIVE SHOW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HOSTAGE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
6 (DOLBY)	LIVE SHOW
7 (DOLBY)	MS CONGENIALITY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LIVE SHOW

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIVE SHOW
Lords	BODY SHOT
Jennet	LIVE SHOW

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	LIVE SHOW
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	DRACULA 2000
4	MS CONGENIALITY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	LIVE SHOW

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	DRACULA 2000
3	HOSTAGE
4	LIVE SHOW
5	MS CONGENIALITY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	LIVE SHOW
3	HOSTAGE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	DRACULA 2000

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	LIVE SHOW
3	HOSTAGE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	LIVE SHOW
3 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW
3 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
4	WOMAN ON TOP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	RESERVE
3	BLONDIE
4 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW
4	BLONDIE
5	HOSTAGE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	LIVE SHOW
3	DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	LIVE SHOW
3	DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CAST AWAY
2	HOSTAGE
3	HANNIBAL

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DRACULA 2000
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	HANNIBAL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HOSTAGE
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	LIVE SHOW
4	DEMON GATE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HOSTAGE
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	DRACULA 2000

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FAMILY MAN
2	102 DALMATIANS
3	HOSTAGE
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HOSTAGE
2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	DRACULA 2000

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HANNIBAL
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	DRACULA 2000
4 (DTS EX)	WOMAN ON TOP

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Monster Radio RX 93.1 gears up for summer

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 remains "Summer's Hottest" with March activities designed to usher in an unforgettable Summer of 2001.

RX 93.1 began March with the premiere of the Sandra Bullock comedy, "Miss Congeniality," at the Shangri-la Plaza Cinema.

On March 15, the regular RX party, "RX Onstage," moves to a new venue, Tequila Joe's El Pueblo.

The series "The Dawn—Intimate and Up Close," featuring the "prodigal sons of rock" in acoustic mode, performing hits from their past albums and their comeback opus, "Prodigal Sun."

"RX Onstage" is the road version of the station's award-winning musical variety program, "The RX Concert Series," which recently featured such hit artists as Parokya ni Edgar, Barbie's Cradle, and the foreign group Plus One, performing live from the RX studios.

On March 30, RX 93.1 salutes the graduates of the new millennium with "2001—A Grand Odyssey," the annual RX graduation party, which will also be held at a new venue, Nth Degree at M. Adriatico Street in Malate.

Coming up this summer for RX listeners are the annual events for which RX 93.1 has become famous, including the RX Cookout, RX Sportsfest, Summer Stickon and the Wooka-Wooka summer outing, with new and equally exciting event concepts.

Special events are an important dimension of the station's dynamic contemporary hits radio programming, which has made Monster Radio RX 93.1 a consistent top-rater among music stations.

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. MS. CONGENIALITY
2. HANNIBAL
3. KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4. HOSTAGE
5. LIVE SHOW
6. ALMOST FAMOUS
7. DRACULA 2000

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1. HANNIBAL
2. LIVE SHOW
3. DRACULA 2000
4. MS. CONGENIALITY
5. KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6. HOSTAGE

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. FAMILY MAN
2. 102 DALMATIANS
3. TUSONG TWOSOME
4. PROOF OF LIFE
5. HOSTAGE
6. NURSE BETTY

DOLBY dts SDDS

Artists at Ciao

FUSION jazz enthusiasts have more reasons to stay up at Ciao Bar-Ristorante of Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila.

This March, enjoy the best pop, classical and other forms of jazz as Ciao brings you cool artists and icons nightly.

Kathleen Leslie and Girl Valencia perform on Mondays; Tassia Marie and Jan May Meily sing on Tuesdays; Rosemarie Villaspin and Tots Tolentino perform on Wednesdays, with Tassia Marie; Girl Valencia and Jan May Meily sing on Thursdays; Tassia Marie and the League of Cayuca on Fridays; and Hiyas and Kathleen Leslie on Saturdays.

Jazz up your evenings from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., for a consumable charge of P350 per person.

For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333, local 3310/20, fax 867-3888 or email foodbevmnl@dusit.com.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALMOST FAMOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MS. CONGENIALITY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	GATAS / MY PRIVATE TEACHER
ODEON	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ODEON-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
ROBEN	HOSTAGE
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	LIVE SHOW
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR-2	HOSTAGE

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITYL
CINEMA-2	ALMOST FAMOUS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	LIVE SHOW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-6	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-7	BLONDIE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

LORES

CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-3	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-4	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-5	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-6	MISS CONGENIALITY

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Pitt and Ritchie as determined iconoclasts and rebels

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN you're **Brad Pitt**, Hollywood's current Golden Boy, you have your pick of the biggest "dreamboat" roles available in the biz—so, why is Pitt playing unglamorous and even downright scruffy characters in "small" films like "Snatch," where he does't even portray the main protagonist?

Because he's bored up to his golden eyelashes with generic leading-man parts!

Now that money is no longer an issue (he makes $20 million per movie), Pitt can afford to look under a rock, so to speak, for edgy roles in unconventional "little" films—and, when his top-drawer talent fee is a problem, he can agree to act for a fraction of that, as he did in "Snatch," just so inside productions can afford him.

Of course, having Brad Pitt's name on its list of credits is a bonanza for any production. For "Snatch," for example, it meant moving up and out from indie status to mainstream release, thus exponentially increasing the production's income-generation potential.

But, just as "Snatch" director **Guy Ritchie** is grateful to Pitt for the big boost, the actor is similarly thankful that he made the movie. In fact, it was Pitt who initiated the working relationship.

It all started when Pitt caught a screening of Ritchie's first feature, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels." For the past couple of years, he's made it a point to scout around for innovative directors, and Ritchie certainly belongs to that category, so the actor went to a preview of the British director's debut film.

Pitt recalls that the film blew him away and "made me laugh my ass off," so, right after the screening, he got in touch with Ritchie.

He praised the young director for "his movie's new way of saying and showing, its energy, the way things were moving, the way it played with time, its colorful characters, and the way their stories were moven together, and how it all added up! And I thought to myself, I got to get some of what this guy's got!"

The result was, Ritchie cast Pitt in the role of a big, brash streetfighter in "Snatch," for which the acutely handsome actor cheerfully "uglified" himself and invented an almost completely unintelligible way of speaking.

But the basic goodness and even nobility of his character still shines through in the film—which, by the way, Ritchie chose to direct over much more showy offers like "Charlie's Angels" and "Gone in 60 Seconds."

So, Pitt and Ritchie turn out to be perfectly matched: the film world dangles all sorts of juicy projects in front of them, but they're both determined iconoclasts and rebels who refuse to do what most everybody else is fantasizing about.

Pitt also had to give up some goodies to do "Snatch," like "The Legend of Bagger Vance" (his role went to **Matt Damon**) and "Almost Famous." But the trade-off has been worth it for the young superstar, because "small" movies like "Snatch" have added to his reputation as a gifted actor in a very big way.

TV treats

ON FRIDAY, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Parrots, Chips and Powder" explores the conflict between the consumption of natural resources and the conservation of wildlife. The case example is Stone Container Corporation and its plans for development in Costa Rica. (Replays on March 17 at 8:30 a.m. and March 23 at 10:30 a.m.).

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, the program on view is "Tunnels," about the huge superstructures and their extraordinary value in modern times.

Advance screening

CITYLITE 88.3 presents the advance screening of "Billy Elliot" at Cinema 2 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall at 7:30 tonight.

On March 14, Citylite 88.3 Citylite Live Sporty Nite with the Silk band at Stix Sports Bar on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati. On March 28, the venue is the Nth Degree Bar and Billiards on Adriatico st. in Malate. Featured band is Mulatto.

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DRACULA 2000 - R 18 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:40	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

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Love child waits for actor-father's acknowledgement

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

AFTER I wrote about the lovechild of a child star and a *colegiala* in my column last week, I was swamped with queries about it.

I'm not at liberty to divulge the father's identity. I think I could shed some light on the matter if I shared with you portions of a letter e-mailed to me by the mom of the *colegiala* as well as a photo of the baby girl.

Look closely at the baby's features and see if you can guess who the father is. As they say, a picture paints a thousand words. In this case, it may also paint a thousand questions.

"Dear DollyAnn,

"I read your article in the PDI sometime last week where you referred to a young actor who has refused to admit to having gotten a 'colegiala' pregnant . . . I write you now to thank you for taking the cudgels for my daughter and our family.

"My child would have been a 'colegiala' in June, had she been able to graduate from high school this March. She had to stop studying because I felt that she needed to focus her energies to carrying the baby.

"She wanted to stay in school, the brave girl, even if she was pregnant, but I told her that it would have been too much to handle the NCEE, entrance exams at universities, and the pregnancy all at the same time.

"It was a trying time for my husband and myself to go through this ordeal with (our daughter), but God has been faithful and He has given us the grace to look ahead with hope for our daughter's future. *Siyempre*, for our granddaughter *na rin*!

"Basically, I am a very forgiving person. And I had forgiven (the child star) for what he did to my daughter, *kahit 'di pa siya nagpakita o nagparamdam man lang* after a telephone conversation I had with him where he said 'sorry' and said that he would 'do whatever was required' of him. I understand that he is but a boy after all.

"But when (our daughter) was in the delivery room, and I was there with her, and I saw how hard it was to deliver her baby, I was sorely tempted to curse at (the child star)! My hurt increased when, upon talking to his aunt and his cousin, I learned that he already knew of the baby's birth, but he didn't bother to call or visit.

"I called their house many times, before I finally got his stepdad to pay some attention. He came to visit at the hospital, got the baby's picture, and the preliminary copy of the birth certificate which (the child star) had to sign as the father. He has yet to call us and/ot return that document.

"*Alam mo* what hurts/offends us more? *Ang mga magulang ng* child star . . . We know that they know, and they haven't lifted a finger to do anything about it. '*Di bale na yung bata. Isip bata pa nga siguro*. But the adult parents? Where is their sense of decency?

"It is not as though we were running after them for money or support. All we want is for the child star to acknowledge paternity. After we get that, he can go to

Timbuktu, get a million other girls into trouble, or go plant 'kamote' for all we care.

"*Hindi naman siguro* out of bounds *ang hinihingi namin*. Like you said, we are able to care for both our child and our grandchild. We are not rich, but we are blessed by God with all that we need and more. *Siguro* it will take legal means to get his signature on our sweet baby's birth certificate. We have taken steps in this direction, but I am still hoping that he will finally stand up and be man before it all becomes final.

"Our grandchild is a JOY, a beautiful little girl of whom the child star would be proud, were he to see her. *Sayang* he's missing out on such special moments in her young life which will not happen again.

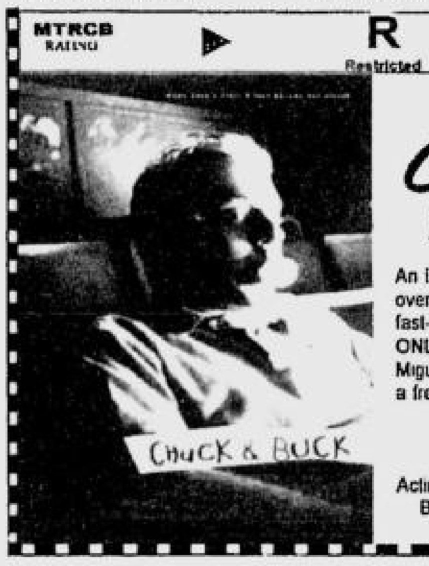
"Well, enough of my 'daldal.' I hope that you will forgive me for intruding on your time. It just seemed to me that your concern was truly sincere, and knowing that you are a mother, *alam kong* you will understand the 'rantings' of a loving mother's heart."

Lea in US soap

A REGULAR reader from Florida e-mailed me the latest on **Lea Salonga**. After "Miss Saigon," she continues to soar. No one can outdo her at all.

"Lea just joined the cast of 'As The World Turns' as **Tom Hughes'** daughter. The character of Lea was last seen in 1991 played by **Ming-na**. It's a delight to see a 'kababayan' gracing an American TV show. It has livened up my afternoons. I'm sure other Pinoys here share the same sentiment.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole 2000@yahoo.com



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BUSINESS

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91-day treasury bill rate falls below 10%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE RATE for the 91-day treasury bills fell below 10 percent for the first time since Oct. 16 during yesterday's auction by the Bureau of Treasury.

"This is a reaction to the central bank rate cut. We hope there would be further rate cuts. If the US Fed will cut, there's more room for the overnight borrowing rate to fall to 10 percent," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told reporters following the auction.

Yesterday's auction should further beef up the government's cash position, which stood at P73 billion as of last Friday, Edeza said.

He said the yield for the 91-day paper would fall to slightly below 9 percent only if the country's inflation rate moves significantly lower.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was surprised by the debt market's reaction to the latest rate cut by the bank, which brought the overnight borrowing rate to 10 percent and lending rate to 12.75 percent.

"It's a pleasant surprise. That only means there's enough liquidity in the market," Buenaventura told reporters.

The 91-day treasury bill fetched a rate of 9.893 percent at the auction yesterday, against last week's 10.328 percent. The auction rate on Oct. 16 was 9.892 percent.

The return to a single-digit rate was earlier than the market had expected.

Yields of longer tenors went down sharply by 0.577 percentage point to 10.983 percent for the 182-day bills and by 0.665 percentage point to 11.788 percent for the one-year debt papers.

The last time the six-month and one-year treasury bills hovered near these levels was on Sept. 18 last year when the 182-day rate closed at 10.645 percent while the 364-day rate stood at 11.963 percent.

Traders had forecast the 91-day rate would have come in around 10 percent at the auction, in line with a 50-basis-point cut in overnight interest rates by the central bank effective Monday.

The benchmark interest rates were raised four percentage points in October to support the beleaguered peso when it was pressured by a political crisis in which former President Joseph Estrada was accused of receiving bribes from illegal gambling syndicates.

Estrada, who was ousted from his post last Jan. 20 following a popular movement against him, has denied any wrongdoing.

The Bangko Sentral began reducing the rates from December and has so far cut 4.5 percentage points.

Buenaventura reiterated the central bank's stance that it would probably wait until the US Federal Reserve decided on its rates at a policy meeting on March 20 before any further cuts locally.

"We will wait for the Fed. We will probably not touch it.

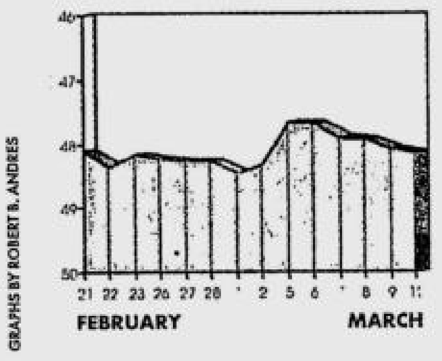
We will let (the) 50-basis-point cut feed into the system," he said.

With a report from Reuters

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

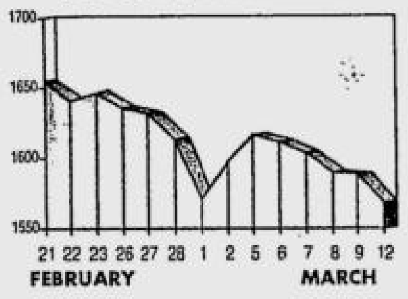
₱48.145 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 12, 2001

¥120.52 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.52 as of 5 p.m., March 12, 2001

GOLD:$270.30/270.80
per ounce Hong Kong, March 12, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end down

STOCKS dipped yesterday, with investors using the slide on Wall Street on Friday as an excuse to dump holdings, and volume reached a record low, traders said.

They added the low turnover reflected the growing lack of interest in the local market as investors take to the sidelines ahead of the May Congressional elections as well as first quarter corporate earnings due for release in April.

Trades worth P196.628 million changed hands, below the previous record low of P215.72 million posted on Jan. 3.

"A lot of people were focusing on the negatives of the Dow Jones and Nasdaq (indices) but other Asian markets dumped stocks in bigger volumes than we did," Vickers Ballas associate director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said.

"Basically there was lack of interest . . . there was nothing to push investors to take a stand in the market," Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines president Efren Cruz said.

The composite index closed down 20.86 points, or 1.31 percent at 1,567.53 points. It was the lowest level since Jan. 19 when it dipped to 1,452.93 points, the day before former President Joseph Estrada was ousted from office.

Ayala redeems $48M in bonds

AYALA Corp. has redeemed $48 million worth of bonds that were converted by bondholders into shares in its property subsidiary Ayala Land Inc.

The redemption has released about 300 million ALI shares held by the conglomerate to the free market. This explained the perceived increase in supply of ALI shares since the start of the year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Manotoc said the redeemed bonds represented 34 percent of the $142 million worth of zero-coupon bonds issued by the conglomerate that matured in December 2000.

Attached to the bond, which was issued by Ayala Corp. to raise fresh funding for capital expenditures, was an option for stockholders to convert their bonds into shares in ALI, which they could then sell in the market.

"This leads to the dilution of Ayala Corp.'s shares in ALI because we're giving the bondholders some of our own shares, but the dilution is very small," Manotoc said.

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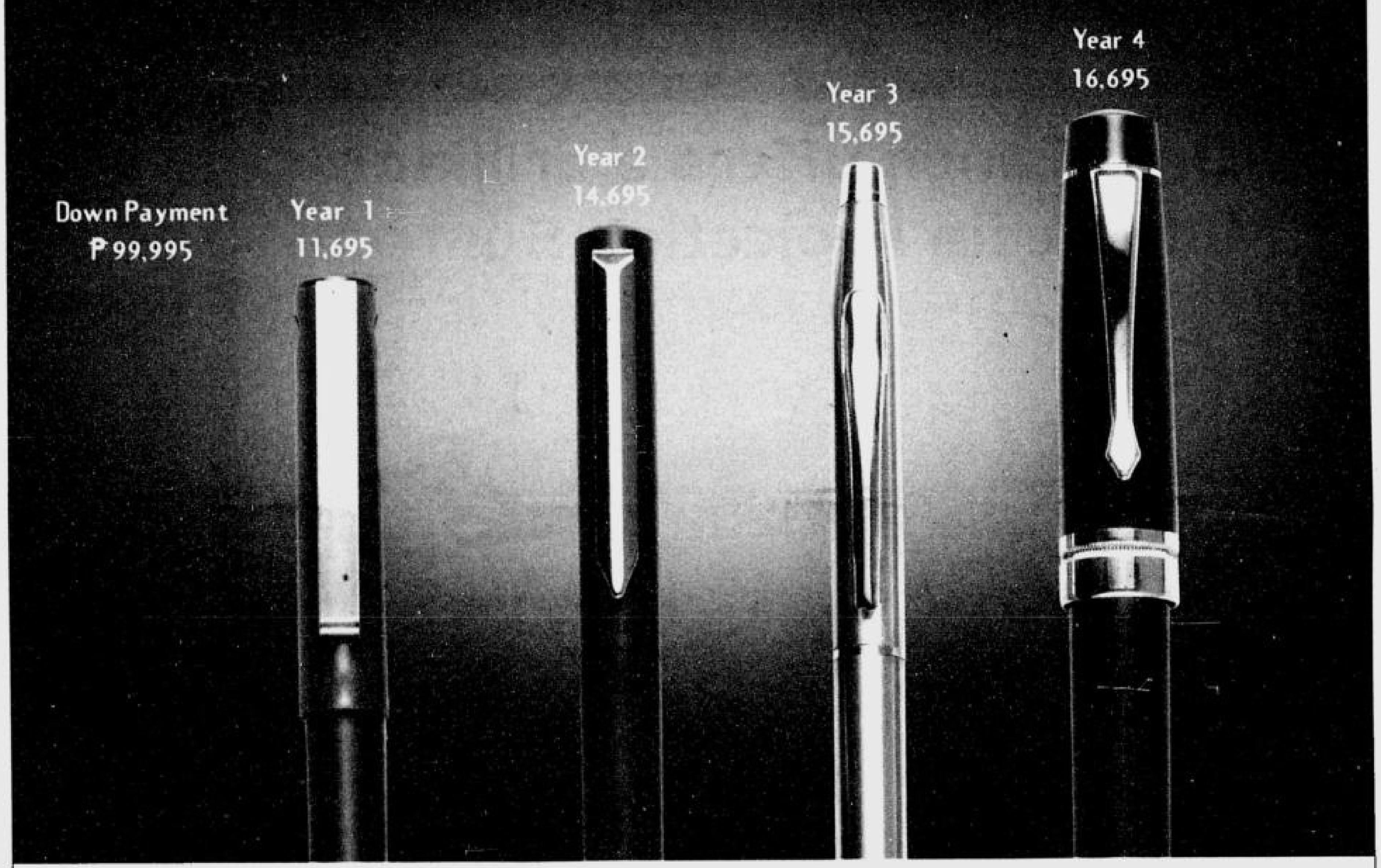

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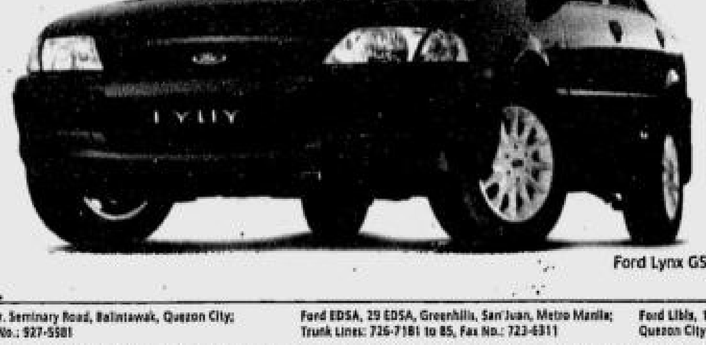

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Peace and chiefs

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR new Commander in Chief is suing for peace with the communists. They are, of course, the homegrown variety. Local *lang*. Technically, they are the only communists with whom our government has been at war with for, oh, only more than four decades already.

Our quarrel with imported communists is not the bloody type. It is known in the civilized world simply as a "trade war." Our legitimate businessmen, nevertheless, know it by another name. You know—massive smuggling from China!

But the two sides, meaning, our government and our communists, announced to our public—meaning, hey, that's all of us—they just agreed against all odds that, come what may, they would go back where they had been about two years ago. Great!

Supposedly, that's a step forward. They are resuming the peace talks. Similar gabfests enthralled our past three consecutive Commanders in Chief but nothing happened. I think everybody wants peace talks. Sometimes we should have peace listens.

***

BUT at least for big business, merely talking about peace may be good enough. It's a signal to the world that our economy, which already collapsed, according to the same big business, surely is on its way right this minute to . . . well, regaining confidence.

Surveys show that big business is getting back its confidence. "Confidence" is the technical business term for "balls." This applies even if the businessman is actually a woman. In our country, based on recent history, women have the balls, anyway.

Still, the "confidence" showed in surveys, which are all talk, remains a ghost in the stock market, which is fast action. The market cannot feel or see it yet. Really, trading in the stock market is turning from anemic to leukemic.

Stockbrokers have no explanation except the market needs reforms. Blah, blah, blah! Most likely, the market is almost dead because the best friends of presidential spokesman Renato Corona still can't find their balls. You know—the guys in Binondo.

***

IF, at least on paper, big business says everything is turning for the better, other big sectors of the economy are saying, "Huh?" For instance, our biggest exporter of electronic chips, Amkor, recently imposed a four-day workweek. Its workers had nothing to do.

Exports of electronics, and count in garments, too, are going down, thanks to the economic slowdown in the United States. In that country, they are no longer talking about an economic "soft landing." They are just waiting for data on how steep the dive.

Maybe Corona's best friends in Binondo, being in the economic frontline, sense bad times ahead. They would rather still stay away from the local stock market. Months ago, anyway, most of their portfolios went to New York for political asylum.

To think, in record time, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of this cute administration of Gloriaetta, giving it legitimacy. Do we need more? The administration and the communists also promised they would seriously consider doing a lot of talking.

***

BET on it, bubwit, we need more—a lot more! In politics, sure, all of us pray that our Commander in Chief succeeds where our past three successive Commanders in Chief failed so that the economy can reap a little peace dividend. It's just not enough.

Some one-third of the funds of the banking system, for instance, according to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, are tied with useless endeavors like bad loans and real estate. He agrees that something must be done about it.

But then, he says the government just cannot do it. The government simply has big problems of its own, and they all involve money. It does not have enough of it. Excuse me, sir, but who in this country has enough of that?

Yet, the government is going to cover for the foolishness of government corporations. Foolishness is a bit expensive, amounting to some P20 billion this year. I get it that the government has only money for its own foolishness.

***

NOT all banks lost their heads in the real estate lending spree in the boom years of Kuya Eddie. That's why Security Bank, for instance, could invest some P25 million easily on hi-tech banking to attract new clients. It launched a product called "Casa Manager."

Now, "casa" may sound suspicious to the misses, particularly when the mister is always doing overtime, but Security Bank's product has nothing to do with that, you jerk. It's a cash management system on the Internet.

Let's say you are busy in another casa and you have to remit money to a supplier in Takurong. If you have a relationship with Security Bank, you can just use your fingers. The computer transfers your money anywhere in the country.

That's in real time, according to Security Bank's techies. Safe, too! Its system uses the 128-bit encryption. This is not an Egyptian tomb. It prevents anybody else from messing up with your account with the use of simple tools like algorithm.

***

AS it was explained to me by Manny Narciso, head of the bank's cash management unit, who was pirated by the bank's president, Rafael Simpao, from Citibank together with other top executives from other banks, why do I want to figure out what 128-bit encryption can do?

Only the US military could use such a system just recently. Business used a 40-bit encryption. This already provided some 37 trillion combinations. Asked by me to compute the combinations in a 128-bit encryption, Narciso could not comment.

Let's just say that for hackers to perform a little magic with your account, it's close to impossible. This leaves "inside job" to look out for when you do hi-tech cash management with Security Bank. "Inside," in this case, means inside your office.

On the side of the bank, you see, its techies assured me that the system has layers of checks and counterchecks. Since it is all done electronically, no human hands will ever touch your account. This lessens the temptation to do some foolishness.

But still, if that is so, when maybe even God does not know what's going on in the computer, the client will have to rely on that one constant in banking. And that is "trust." In the end, even with algorithms and all, banking is still about trust.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, March 12, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70	69	69.5	240,700
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	53.5	52.5	52.5	19,000
First E-Bank Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	1,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	70.5	75	67	71	1,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	229	229	224	227	50,160
Philippine National Bank	46.5	48	46.5	47.5	93,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29.5	29	29.5	4,400
Security Bank Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	45,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	31,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1270	1255	1270	5,420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	975	975	970	970	16,280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	45	45	45	45	5,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.56	0.56	3,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	700	680	700	1,030
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.5	3.5	2,000
Piltel	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	670,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	775	775	775	775	14,670
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	1	1	590,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.0675	0.07	72,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52	52.5	52	52.5	4,200
Manila Electric Co. B	62	62	61	62	123,800
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.84	1,171,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	.0.93	160,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	210,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	2,078,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	11	11.5	10.75	11.5	17,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	302,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	37	37	37	37	16,100
RFM Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	213,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47	47.5	17,900
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	55.5	55	55.5	57,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	890,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.58	150,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	20,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	1,194,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1,481,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	-0.95	60,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	39,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	1,611,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	950,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	90,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.22	1,287,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	179,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	240,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	20,000
Ionics Inc.	12.75	13.5	12.75	12.75	111,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	263,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.92	105,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.86	0.88	2,080,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	480,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	190,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	210,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	15,000
Music Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	270,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	156,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.66	2,230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	45	45	45	45	88,700
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4	4	4	4	110,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	725	725	725	725	5,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	25,500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.29	200,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	6,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	6,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.3	6	6.1	2,235,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	80,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.4	1,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.5	2.55	4,750,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	80,000
SM Development Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	110,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	3,698,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	4,670,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.235	0.21	0.215	2,020,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.23	3,410,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	27,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	·0.225	410,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	3,520,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	·0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	14,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000,000

DISCLOSURES

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. has announced the resignation of Masataka Dobashi as a director of the company.

* * *

LODESTAR Mining Corp. will sell 10.64 million delinquent shares with a total unpaid balance of P7.98 million on March 23, 10 a.m., at its corporate office.

* * *

CROWN Equities Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from April 24 to June 28 and set the record date on April 30. The company said Wilfrido Vergara, Edilberto Javier and Oscar Lopez-Dee resigned as directors of the company. Elected to replace them were Richard Chiongbian, Carmelito Salazar and Carmen Huang.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has announced that **San Carlos Milling Co. Inc.** is no longer included in its official registry of listed issuers. The revocation resulted from the company's breach of the stock exchange's rules and the revocation by the Securities and Exchange Commission of its certificate of registration and permit to sell securities last December.

* * *

MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11 with record date set on May 11.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 9 a.m., at the Ballroom of Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. Stockholders of record as of April 30 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18, 10 a.m. at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Only stockholders as of March 1 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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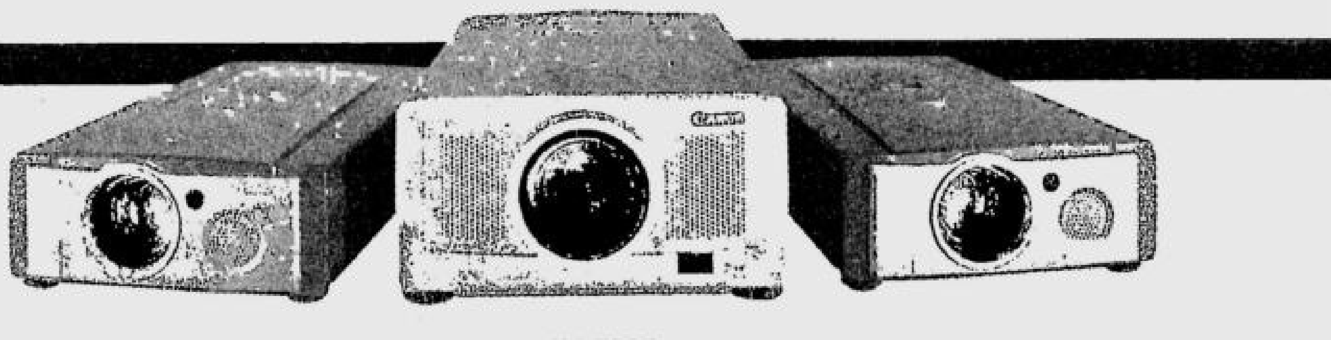

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Gokongwei retail unit ties up with UK group

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEI group yesterday disclosed plans to infuse up to P2 billion a year for the expansion of its various retailing businesses, JG Summit Holdings Inc. president James Go said yesterday.

This developed as the group's Robinsons Retail Group, which Go also heads, yesterday announced a new venture with UK-based Arcadia Group Plc. on the high-end boutique business as well as the aggressive expansion of its convenience store chain Mini-Stop, a joint venture with the Mitsubishi Corp. and Jusco of Japan.

"We are totally committed to retailing and our intention is to be a significant supplier of retail services in the Philippines," Go said during yesterday's launching of their partnership with International Grocers Alliance, the world's largest voluntary independent supermarket network.

The group's existing retailing formats also include the Big R shopping centers, utility and hardware store chain Handyman and Robinsons Supermarkets.

In a separate interview, Robinsons Department Store senior vice president Robina Gokongwei-Pe said the group has obtained the franchise to market three Arcadia brands in the Philippines—Top Shop, Top Man and Miss Selfridge.

Gokongwei-Pe said four Arcadia stores would be opened this year, with the maiden branch in Robinsons Manila to be launched by May.,

She also said a new retailing format to be introduced by the group this year was I.boto (i-buy-one-take-one), which is intended to be a bargain-hunting bazaar.

In the case of the Mini-Stop 24-hour convenience store chain, which now has three branches, Go said the group planned to open more than 30 branches this year through a combination of franchising and wholly owned stores. Each store costs about P6 million.

"We are targeting to set up 500 Mini-Stop stores within the year," Go said.

For Robinsons Supermarket Corp., general manager Ronnie Ong is projecting a 20-percent growth in sales this year and a 30-percent increase in net income.

RSC yesterday launched its first major partnership for the year with IGA, which is intended to make it more competitive and stronger in the fields of merchandising, marketing and retailing of goods and groceries.

As a member of IGA, RSC will now have access to the latest in store and department features, IGA programs, industry trends and new products and services. It will also be able to use national marketing efforts supported by IGA's network of 4,000 stores all over the world.

"We hope that from this partnership we'll get a seal of good housekeeping based on global standards," Go said.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of March 13, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	1,900,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	350,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FANTASY WORLD	-	Please call
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	92,500/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	600,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	500,000*	450,000/550,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (with lot)*	400,000	415,000/2,000,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000	Please call
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/900,000*	-
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000/160,000*	180,000
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	140,000/Please call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA A/B*	280,000	300,000/420,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	650,000	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	-	130,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.	Please call	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	300,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC	-	500,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,100,000	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	900,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	180,000	190,000
VALLEY GOLF	300,000	350,000
WACK WACK	8,500,000	-

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Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B

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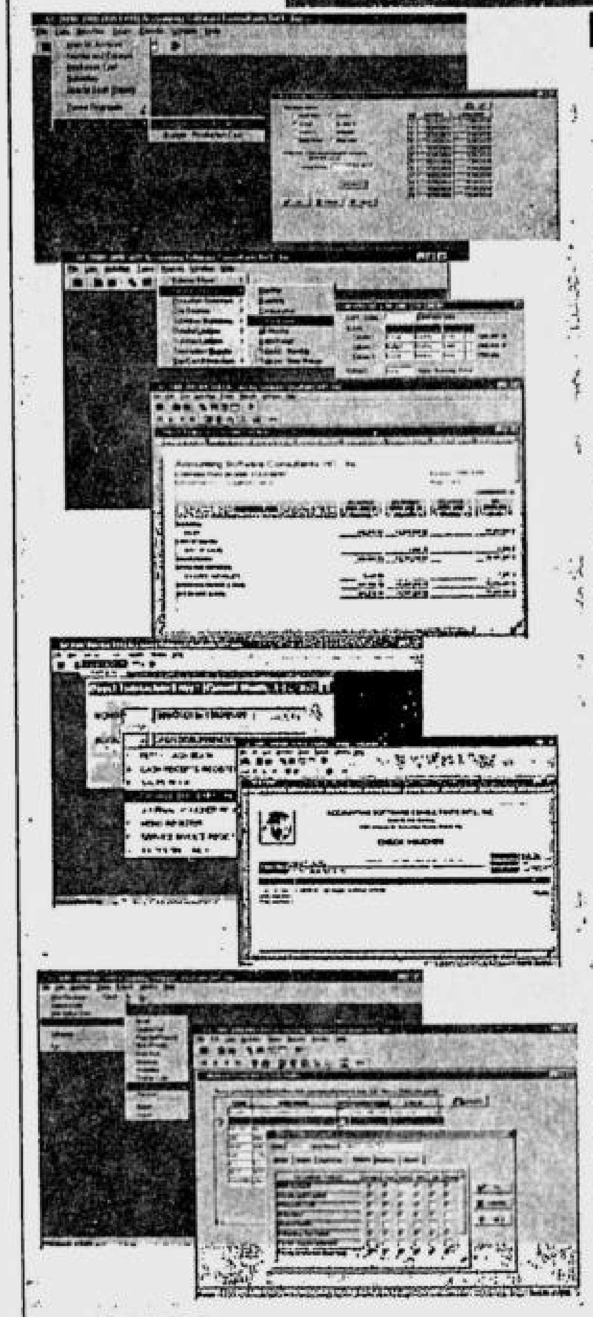

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Men and Women in Business: Partners in the New Economy
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Her Excellency. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
March 19-20, 2001
Hotel Inter-Continental Manila
Grand Ballroom

PROGRAM

DAY 1

7:00 - 8:30 Registration
8:00 Opening of Exhibits
8:30 Opening Ceremonies
9:20 Theme 1. Understanding Globalization
10:20 Keynote Speaker
H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
11:00 Plenary 1: Meeting the Challenges of Globalization-Emergent Technology
Speaker 1: New Rules of Management in a New Market Paradigm
Speaker 2: How to Start a Silicon Valley in Asia
Speaker 3: Global Partnerships for Local IT
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Plenary 2: Human Resource Management in the New Economy
Speaker 1: Emerging Issues in HRM
Speaker 2: Re-engineering the Businesswoman
Speaker 3: Coping with Success/Failure
3:30-6:00 Business Matching

DAY 2

8:30 Theme: Transformative Leadership and Business Transforming Business: Women, Leadership & Sustainable Corporate Responsibility
10:00 Plenary 3: Businesswomen as Transformative Leadership
Speaker 1: The Practice of Transformative Leader
Speaker 2: Transformative Leadership & the Environment
12:00 Launching of "50-50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right Campaign"
1:30 Plenary 4 (Panel Discussion) "Towards a Partnership Between Women in Business and Women in Politics"
4:00 Synthesis
4:30 Closing Ceremonies
Hon. Manuel A. Roxas III
Secretary, Department of Trade & Industry

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BSP seen securitizing deposits

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is studying a proposal to let banks and investment houses trade long-term deposits in the secondary market.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a news briefing yesterday that the proposal came from the Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Capital Markets Development Committee.

Buenaventura said the BAP and CMDC submitted this proposal to help lift the country's savings rate, one of the lowest in Asia.

"This could help generate long-term savings among our depositors and, at the same time, help deepen the capital markets," he told reporters.

The BAP and CMDC are asking the BSP to let banks convert deposits set to mature in five years or longer into certificates that may be traded in the secondary market.

These deposit certificates may be listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange to provide a secondary market for buyers and sellers.

"In the process, we could also give people an exit mechanism for their long-term investments in the event that they need to liquefy their funds before they mature," Buenaventura said.

As of end-2000, commercial banks have a total of P1.9 trillion in deposits mostly lodged as short-term savings, current accounts and placements rolled over monthly.

Buenaventura explained that despite higher yields, depositors are still hesitant to place their money in long-term deposits or special savings accounts because they are afraid that they may not be able to withdraw their money easily. Depositors who pre-terminate their time deposits and special savings accounts have to deal with steep fines.

Because of the low confidence among depositors, the country has one of the lowest savings rate in Asia. Experts see this as a hindrance to the formation of a long-term capital market needed to spur domestic growth.

Buenaventura said the central bank, however, would have to first resolve a tax issue before it can allow banks to securitize long-term deposits.

Withholding taxes do not apply to deposits maturing in five years or more.

Deputy BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the move to securitize long-term deposits was consistent with the goals of capital market formation.

"This is consistent with our efforts to develop the capital markets," he said.

FBDC, Stradec to develop office tower

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Strategic Alliance Development Corp. (Stradec) to jointly develop an office tower in Bonifacio Global City's e-Square IT Park.

This development came right after FBDC announced the decision of NEC Telecom Software Philippines Inc., an affiliate of NEC Corp., to locate its Manila operations in e-Square's Hatchasia Global City Center, FBDC's pilot IT office building which will be turned over to locators starting April 2001.

Ricardo S. Pascua, president and CEO of FBDC, and Cezar T. Quiambao, president and CEO of Stradec, signed the MOU.

Stradec is the business development firm that has successfully pioneered the build-operate-transfer (BOT) concept to Philippine toll roads and information technology projects in partnership with the Philippine government.

Stradec has won major government IT contracts such as the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA) computerization projects. It has ongoing negotiations with other government offices for more computerization projects under the Build-Operate-Own Scheme (BOO).

Smart's ₱17-B expansion project gets pioneer perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has granted pioneer incentives to Smart Communications Inc.'s P17-billion project which will further boost the capacity of its digital cellular network.

Smart is expanding its GSM (global system for mobile communications) network capacity for both voice calls and short messaging system or text messages to accommodate the expected doubling of its subscriber base to four million at the end of this year from 2.3 million last year.

The expansion program is expected to lift Smart's ongoing efforts to dominate the fast-growing mobile phone network by ensuring full and quality service to its growing consumer base as well as providing new Internet-related services. Smart has been playing catch-up to its rival Globe Telecom which pioneered GSM services in 1998 but this project is expected to make it at par or ahead of the Ayala unit.

Although Smart was granted pioneer status (BOI guidelines grant pioneer perks to telecommunication projects worth at least P1 billion), it is only eligible for a 3-year income tax break or less than half of the standard 6 to 8 years because it is an expansion project.

Other perks obtained by Smart are additional deduction for labor expenses, unrestricted use of consigned equipment, and employment of foreign nationals.

The bulk of its P17-billion capital spending program will be earmarked for the acquisition of radio systems P11 billion and switching equipment P4.8 billion.

Smart has tapped Finnish cellular phone giant Nokia for the supply of network equipment and consultation and training on its GSM expansion.

This will be Smart's fourth expansion project in the last seven years—in March 1994, it got incentives for its project to provide mobile phone services to 400,000 subscribers nationwide; in December 1994, it obtained incentives to roll out 700,000 landlines in Metro Manila; and in August 1997, it was awarded fiscal perks for its construction of 258 cell sites in Cagayan, Davao and Cebu.

NIIT to enhance RP's competitive edge in world IT sector

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is optimistic that NIIT (National Institute for Information Technology), the world's leading IT school, will give the Filipinos the edge in getting more jobs in the IT sector worldwide.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said NIIT brought with it a global IT curriculum that would help Filipinos become more competitive in the global IT workplace. Roxas said NIIT's global IT curriculum complemented the government's IT thrust by providing a base to further develop the Philippine IT work force.

Mind Stream Inc. managing director Bartolome "Jay" Silayan said: "While the Philippines has a lot of IT graduates, only a few of them have the right IT skills required by MNCs (multinational corporations). Most of them have to go through another round of training just to fit in."

Silayan explained that NIIT has a unique curriculum which blends classroom studies with practical application of IT knowledge through close coordination with major software makers such as Microsoft and Oracle. This is why NIIT's graduates are fully equipped to take over IT jobs after graduation, Silayan said.

Mind Stream is composed of ePLDT, Project Quest, Silayan and investment banker Benedict Perez and is NIIT India's licensee in the country.

NIIT is opening 5 branches in the country this year—Makati, Manila, Quezon City, Ortigas and Alabang.

Silayan said NIIT Philippines would have an initial campus population of 1,000 students for the first five branches that he expects to increase to 5,000 in five years. Silayan stressed that NIIT's expansion plan would depend on the number of enrollees nationwide. NIIT is now open for application.

Silayan said NIIT still has a lot of growth potential considering that the country's top IT schools—STI College and AMA Computer College—have at least 100,000 students each nationwide.

Silayan said the Philippines was in the best position to fill up the huge shortfall in IT workers in the world. In the United States, companies would need 1.6 million workers a year only half of which would be adequately filled up.

Based on applications for working visas in the US for IT, the Philippines ranked fourth in terms of grantees with a 3-percent share behind India (44 percent), China (9 percent) and Britain (5 percent). Aside from the US, Silayan said there was a substantial demand for IT workers in Germany, Japan, Ireland, Italy and South Korea. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

DOE to press Shell, Caltex to list shares

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said yesterday it would continue pushing industry giants Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. to hold an initial public offering, but that it was not setting any deadline.

Newly installed Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in a news conference that he would keep the pressure on but would also be "sympathetic" to the oil firms.

Camacho, formerly an investment banker with Deutsche Bank AG, said he was "inclined to assist them, but we won't have to give them a fixed extension."

He said he also wanted to make sure that when the time comes for Shell and Caltex to offer shares to the public, they would comply right away.

"We should have a sense of when an initial public offering is appropriate. We cannot force them to do it when they cannot," he told reporters.

The Department of Justice last month allowed Shell and Caltex to go around a law that required them to issue shares to the public.

In a seven-page opinion, the justice department said the three-year period given to Shell and Caltex for them to issue shares to the public was not mandatory.

Shell and Caltex were required under the oil industry deregulation law to offer shares to the public last month, but these firms insisted that a slump in the local bourse would tug at their bottom lines.

Shares of the country's biggest oil firm, Petron, are already being traded.

Section 22 of the Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 requires local oil refiners to let the public own at least 10 percent of their equities.

The justice department said the law's deadline "should be regarded as directory only."

"Broadening the base of ownership of oil companies is the purpose of the law, and this will definitely be served (if the three-year rule) were interpreted liberally," the DOJ said.

"(This) will not prohibit an IPO to be conducted after the lapse of (the three-year) period," it said.

₱2-B claim filed vs PAL for salary distortion

By Elena R. Torrijos

A TOTAL of 12,456 employees of Philippine Airlines Inc., through the Philippine Airlines Employees' Association, have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a P2.029-billion claim against the flag carrier for wage distortions arising from presidential decrees and wage orders of the late President Marcos.

In a statement, Palea president Jose Penas III said that the filing of the claim was intended to implement the final and executory judgment of Labor Arbiter Romulus Protasia, the National Labor Relations Commission and the Supreme Court. The ruling stated that a wage distortion existed in PAL as a result of the Marcos orders but the distortion was not corrected.

Penas pointed out that thousands of PAL employees have suffered for a long time due to the failure of the airline, controlled by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, to correct the wage distortion.

The P2.029-billion claim of the PAL employees was based on the computation of the NLRC awarding to the employees a salary differential pay of up to P350,450.87 per employee.

Palea earlier filed its claim with the SEC-appointed interim rehabilitation receiver of PAL but the receiver allegedly ignored the union's motion.

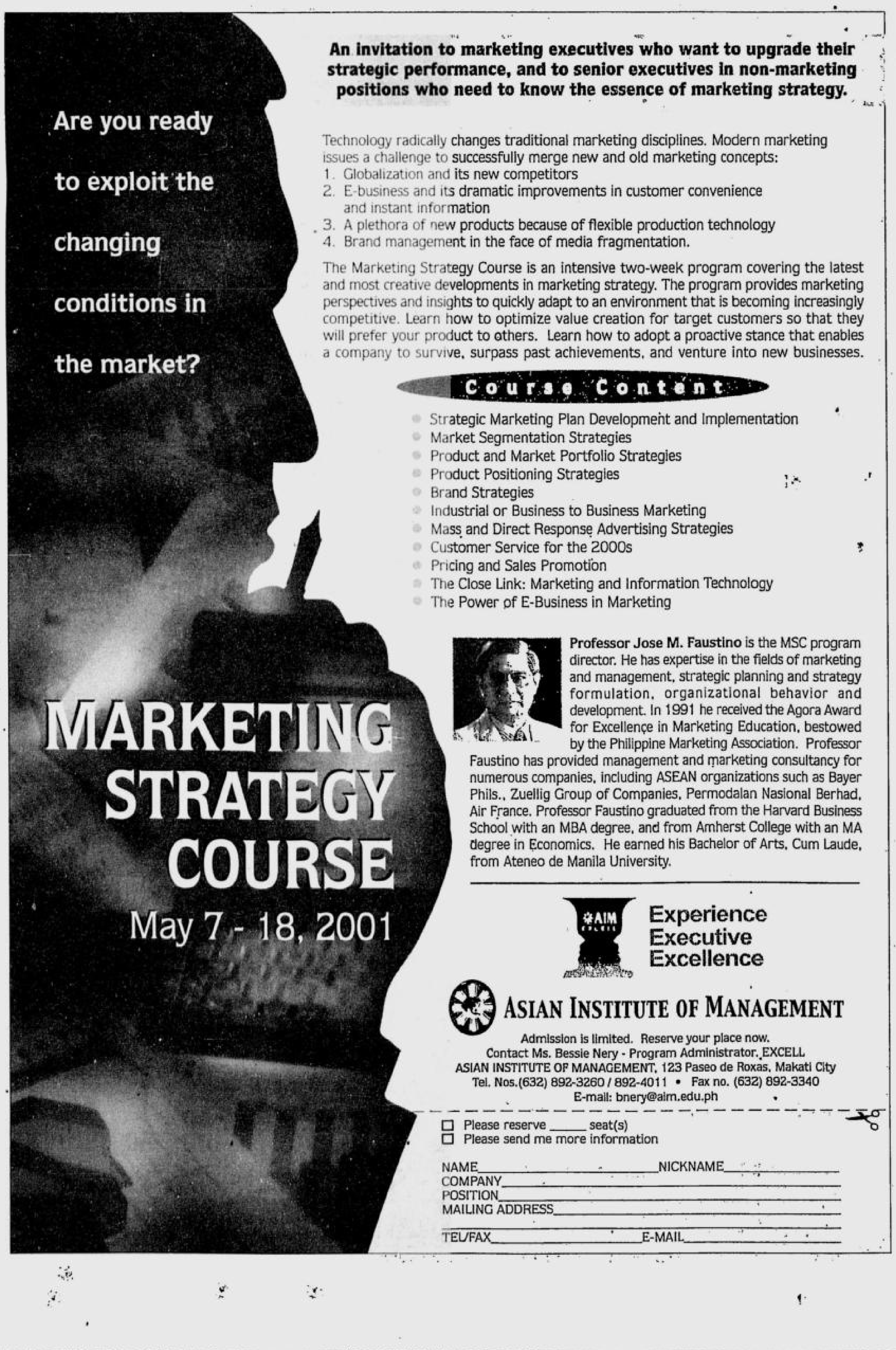
Recently, the first division of the NLRC suspended the proceedings on the Palea members' claim and referred the case to the permanent rehabilitation receiver of PAL which was appointed by the SEC following the approval of the airline's rehabilitation plan.

In its motion filed with the SEC, Palea said the SEC should act immediately to pay the PAL employees ahead of the other creditors of PAL. "These employees had been unduly deprived by the airline of the benefits since the litigation started in December 1983," it said.

CURRENCIES

Mar. 12, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.071467	1.000000	47.9820
Japan	Yen	0.008966	0.008368	0.4015
United Kingdom	Pound	1.575271	1.470200	70.5431
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137371	0.128208	6.1517
Switzerland	Franc	0.648744	0.605473	29.0518
Canada	Dollar	0.692744	0.646538	31.0222
Singapore	Dollar	0.610453	0.569736	27.3371
Australia	Dollar	0.546444	0.509996	24.4706
Bahrain	Dinar	2.842238	2.652661	127.2800
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.285701	0.266645	12.7942
Brunei	Dollar	0.608442	0.567859	27.2470
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000099	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.024608	0.022967	1.1020
UAE	Dirham	0.291722	0.272264	13.0638
Korea	Won	0.000844	0.000788	0.0378
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.933300	44.7816
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.477189	22.8965
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142281	6.8269
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.423513	20.3210
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067826	3.2544
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023136	1.1101
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000482	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156970	7.5317
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004655	0.2234
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005609	0.2691
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023136	1.1101
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.185047	56.8609



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- The Close Link: Marketing and Information Technology
- The Power of E-Business in Marketing

Professor Jose M. Faustino is the MSC program director. He has expertise in the fields of marketing and management, strategic planning and strategy formulation, organizational behavior and development. In 1991 he received the Agora Award for Excellence in Marketing Education, bestowed by the Philippine Marketing Association. Professor Faustino has provided management and marketing consultancy for numerous companies, including ASEAN organizations such as Bayer Phils., Zuellig Group of Companies, Permodalan Nasional Berhad, Air France. Professor Faustino graduated from the Harvard Business School with an MBA degree, and from Amherst College with an MA degree in Economics. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, from Ateneo de Manila University.

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Mobile testing lab to help raise cement use standard

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE COUNTRY'S first mobile cement testing laboratory is set to travel around the provinces, particularly in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) area, to upgrade the skills of Filipino engineers, contractors and cement end users on cement specifications and proper cement mixes for construction.

LaFarge Cement Philippines (LCPI), an affiliate of the Paris-based La Farge, will be educating government agencies and construction industry professionals to help raise the standard of cement use in all building infrastructures—commercial or residential. Topping the list is the Department of Public Works and Highways, followed by the Philippine Construction Association, housing developers, and specifiers through the Association of Construction Engineers.

Awareness level

Although the country's awareness level of the construction industry was rated below par by the LCPI, the maturity of cement end users in the country, according to LCPI vice president for commercial strategy Anthony Yip, "is slowly evolving and getting more sophisticated." The LCPI said the new mobile lab aims to educate cement end users on how to distinguish good cement from the bad. In figuring out cement quality, Yip added that certain criteria are required for proper labeling of cement quality. Physical test factors include strength and compression.

Yip cited the Philippine National Standard for cement compressive strength test as well as the Filipino cement users' demand for higher strength of cement.

The mobile testing laboratory will be ushered in by the technical services team of the LCPI and will conduct tests to check cement quality onsite.

Using it right

"We have to make sure they use it right. The application, cement-water mixing ratio and the additives yield different strength of cement. If they do not know the rule well, if they're trying to make cement more workable by adding more water, then the cement becomes very weak," explained Yip.

Yip stressed that if the right quantity is not measured, the cement mortar mix may not yield the efficient physical strength of the cement. Another area to be considered is the reactivity of the sand mix.

"Incompatibility may yield too much heat and the evaporation of the molecule inside the concrete may move too fast; the temperature difference results to a lot of cracks in the concrete," he said.

He added that cracks produce loose concrete. Structures made from cement incompatible with the aggregate would not be good, he explained.

"If too many cracks appear, the original expected physical strength of the structure (is not achieved), the column or beam may not be safe, and you would have to demolish it and do it all over again."

Varied interests

The LCPI has varied interests in the Philippine construction industry, with investments in FR Cement Corp., Continental Operating Corp. as well as in Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp. It is vying for ISO 14001 certification for environmental management system and has recently been conferred an ISO 9002 certification.

La Farge's entry in the Philippines comes in the form of strategic partnerships in local companies, to which it has now infused US$460 million in investments. Founded in 1833, La Farge specializes in cement, aggregates and concrete, roofing and gypsum.

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HUDCC addresses housing issues

DEFENSOR updates President Macapagal on the status of the administration's shelter program in Davao City during the recent multisectoral assembly held in Toril.

FORMER Rep. Michael T. Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the government housing coordinating agency is vigorously addressing the concerns raised by the Senate housing committee headed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Defensor said the HUDCC is specially addressing the problem of about 100,000 idle and unoccupied housing units that were built from loans granted by the Pag-Ibig Fund, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

Marketing arm

The HUDCC chief said he will create a special marketing arm shortly to dispose of the idle and unoccupied houses before their condition deteriorates beyond repair.

It is ironic, Defensor said, that while there is a backlog of more than three million homes nationwide, there are thousands of housing units that remained idle and unoccupied.

On the alleged anomalous loans, Defensor said the problem is being addressed both by the Pag-Ibig Fund and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., two agencies attached to the HUDCC.

The matter of the 100,000 idle and unoccupied housing units and the supposedly anomalous loans surfaced during the committee hearings headed by Biazon.

Defensor attended the public hearings and presented to the committee the thrusts of the Macapagal administration's housing program.

Still top priority

He told the committee that housing is still a top priority of the Macapagal administration, whose first acts when it was installed into office more than a month ago was to hold dialogue-consultations with several informal settlers' organizations.

President Macapagal had also distributed several housing units and land titles to deserving families since she assumed office Jan. 20.

The latest recipients of government-issued land title and housing units were residents of several lands owned by the government in Baguio City and nearby areas.

The President also visited the Smokey Mountain area in Tondo to access the condition of the resettled families living in the area.

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Blessing of 2 Georgetown model units set Sunday

THE CEDARBROOK model unit

GEORGETOWN Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay will hold the blessing and inauguration of its Rosewood Manor and Cedarwood model units on Sunday at 10 a.m.

According to First Georgetown Ventures Inc. general manager Richie Yang, Georgetown is an exclusive community for weekend vacationers, retirees and families in search of a retreat near Metro Manila.

Located on a 25-hectare property overlooking Taal Lake and volcano, it offers the comfort of modern living in a splendid, unspoiled environment.

The Rosewood Manor has a total floor area of 312.2 sq. m. on 391 square-meter lot. It has three bedrooms, three toilets and bathrooms, powder room, two-car garage, driver's and maid's rooms, a fireplace, balcony and terrace.

The Cedarbrook model unit sits on a lot area of 386.7 sq. m. with a floor area of 435 sq. m. It features four bedrooms, four T&B, 2-car garage, maid's and driver's quarters, powder room, fireplace and balcony.

Both Rosewood Manor and Cedarbrook, which offer a fabulous view of the ridge of Taal Lake, are done in classic American country home style.

The public is invited to visit Georgetown and view these two new model units. For inquiries, call up Georgetown Marketing at 813-6860.

Buildable lots for secured home life

STA. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. is building a high-end residential community called Victoria Place, located in the progressive Pasig City.

Victoria Place is a 10-hectare property that will be incorporated into a Victorian-inspired residential community. It will have a well-secured and landscaped entrance gates and a multipurpose clubhouse

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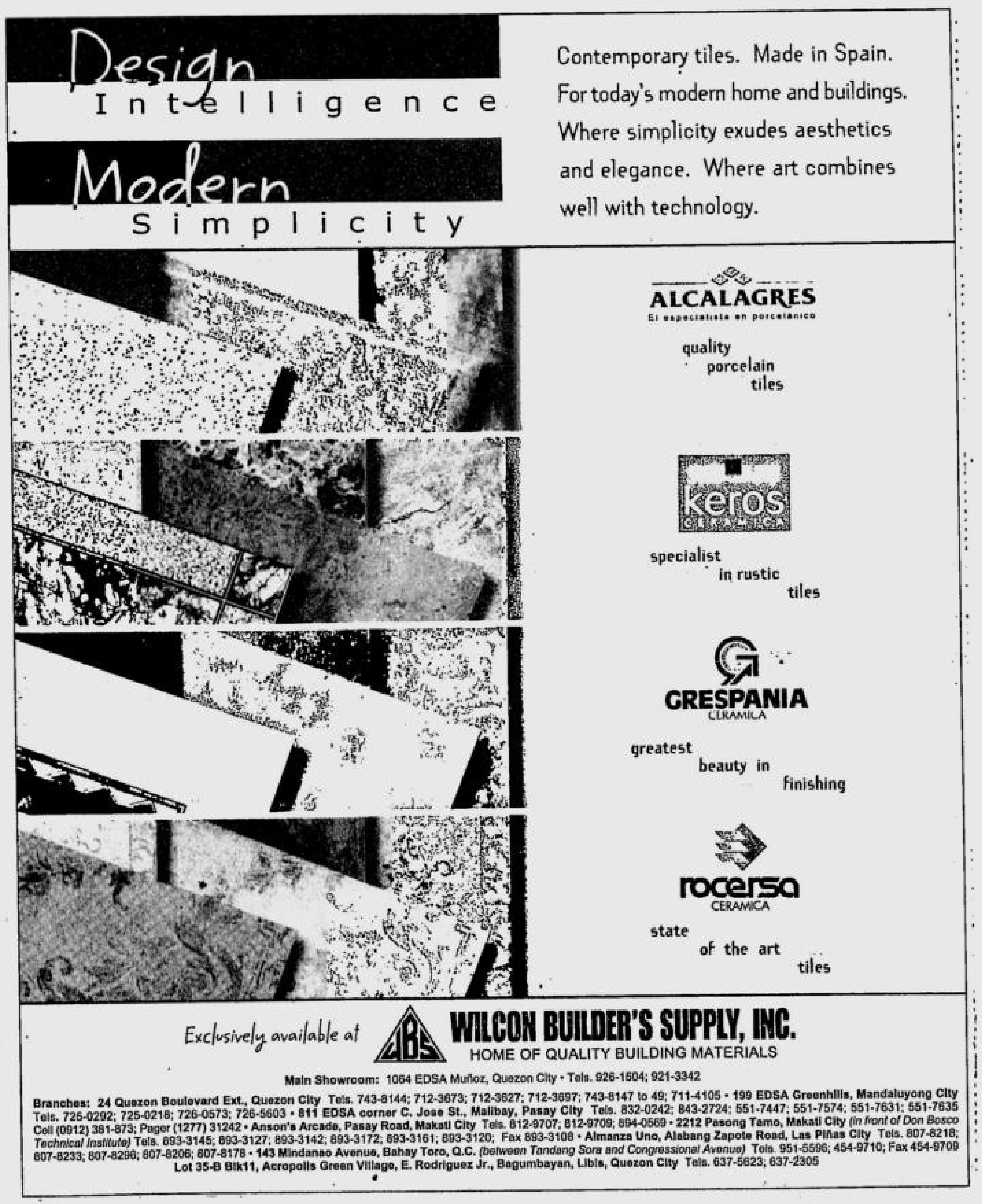

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Creba supports Alvarez for top DENR post

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) yesterday recommended the appointment of Rep. Heherson T. Alvarez whom it called the "leading voice on environment" as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Creba, the largest conglomerate of corporate and individual players in the real estate and building industry, submitted its endorsement to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

Alvarez is one of those mainly responsible for major pieces of legislation on environmental protection. Among them is the Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003), the first measure signed into law by President Macapagal, which promotes ecological waste management and creates necessary institutions for implementation.

Other pro-environment laws which Alvarez vigorously supported as one of the principal authors in Congress, Creba said, are the Clean Air Act (RA 8749) which sets standards for ambient air and emissions from all air pollution sources and strengthened the government structure for implementation and enforcement; National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act (RA 7586) provides for the establishment and management of the bird sanctuaries and wilderness areas; and Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (RA 7611) for protecting and enhancing the natural resources and endangered species of the country's last frontier.

One of the youngest delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, he was first elected to the Senate in 1987 and reelected for another six-year term in 1992. As a lawmaker, Alvarez has distinguished himself as an ardent environmentalist, economist and social reformer.

Alvarez refused an appointment as permanent ambassador to the United States to become minister of agrarian reform under then President Corazon Aquino in 1986.

He was a principal complainant in the impeachment case filed by the House of Representatives against former President Estrada.

Alvarez studied liberal arts and law at the University of the Philippines and holds a masters in economics and public administration degree from Harvard University in the United States. He has a doctorate of environmental Science (Ph.D.) honoris causa from the Mindanao State University.

Creba commended Alvarez' environmental advocacy and action, citing the following points:

- In 1993, Alvarez initiated the signing of the Healthy Air Pact, a voluntary agreement by the three major oil companies which paved the way for the reduction of lead content in gasoline, from 0.6 g/l to 0.5 g/l, the reduction of the sulfur content of diesel, and eventually, the introduction of unleaded gasoline in February 1994. Since then, an estimated 260 tons of lead in the atmosphere have been removed annually, and about P538 million savings on health costs have been realized.
- Alvarez secured the support of President Ramos for contests on the Cleanest and Greenest Cities and Municipalities which were adopted by the Departments of Interior and Local Government and of Education, Culture and Sports for revival of water bodies, clean markets and school campuses.
- As founding chair of the Earthsavers Movement, Alvarez initiated the DREAM Academy as its training arm and supported the Earthsavers DREAMs Ensemble, a group of physically challenged and underprivileged, but talented, youth actively involved in rehabilitation and social integrating activities. The group received rave reviews for their effective eco-education messages at the Social Summit in Copenhagen, Habitat in Istanbul, World Youth Festival in Lisbon and World Environment Day Forum in Seoul. A drama serial on population produced by Earthsavers with UNFPA assistance was cited as a soap opera for social change in a CNN documentary by Barbara Pyle.
- He successfully rallied the entire country in a 40-day vigil, including a signature campaign, to stop the nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.
- He initiated the project for regreening and protecting the Cagayan River watershed with participation of Suma Ching Hal International.
- He initiated the Laguna Lake Clean Up Project whereby the LLDA, the local government units, the business and nongovernmental sectors undertook cooperative activities toward a cleaner and greener Laguna Lake watershed. Through this effort, the Laguna Lake and Mt. Makiling Commission was created for carrying out a master plan.
- Alvarez authored and published environmental monograms, including various Earthsavers Manuals, a bilingual eco-book, videotape plugs and audiotapes of songs to support public education in environment. He also assisted and facilitated the development of a new Soap Opera for Environment with Asian Development Bank assistance.
- He has worked with the Philippine Business for Environment and Management Association of the Philippines to promote public acceptance of the "Polluters Pay" principle and appreciation of the systems for environmental and natural resource accounting (ENRA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA).

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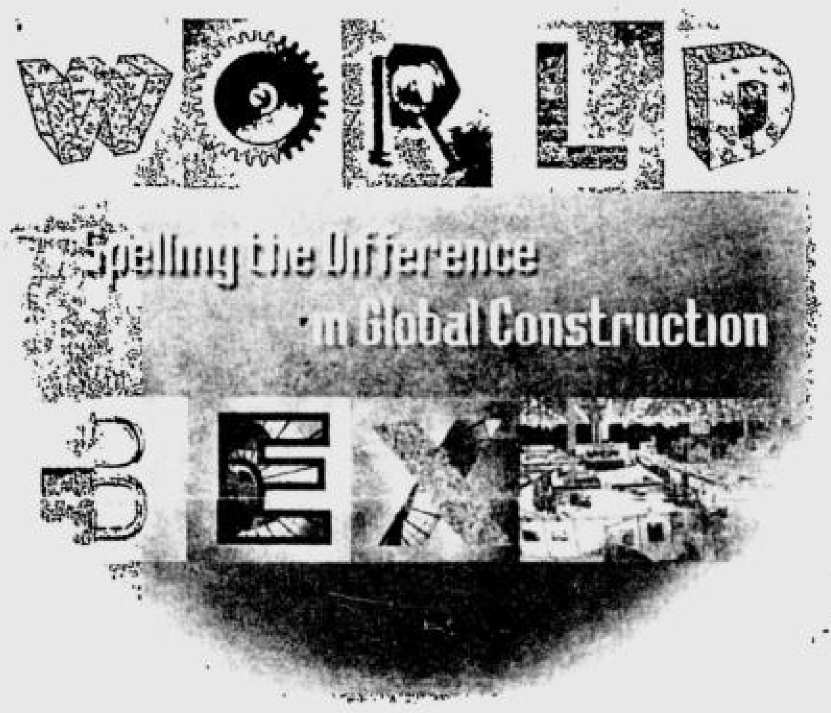

Product Demonstration SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	COMPANY
14 March	1:00 to 2:00	WG&A - Freight & Passage Information
	2:00 to 3.00	Blue Circle - Masonry Cement
	3:00 to 4:00	SMJ Furnishing (S) Pte. Ltd.
	4:00 to 5:00	Audio-Visual Driver-Audio Access: Multi-Room Pipe-in Music
15 March	10:00 to 11:00	Delta Faucet - The Cutting Edge in Faucet Technology
	11:00 to 12:00	Intelligent Traffic System-Cleaning,Rejuvination,Protection & Maintenance of Natural Stones
	1:00 to 2:00	OFS - USM Products
	2:00 to 3.00	Blue Circle - Phoenix Fly Ash Cement
	3:00 to 4:00	Wordtext Systems, Inc. - HP Vectra
	4:00 to 5:00	Elco Philippines, Inc. - Home Building System
16 March	10:00 to 11:00	OFS - USM Products
	1:00 to 2:00	Audio-Visual Driver - Portable Presentations
	2:00 to 3:00	Hocheng Philippines - HCG Product Presentation
	3:00 to 4:00	Wordtext Systems, Inc. - HP Plotters
	4:00 to 5:00	Stoneworks-The Stoneworks Technology of Cast Polymer Products
17 March	10:00 to 11:00	Habitat for Humanity Phils. - The Heart of Habitat
	1:00 to 2:00	Coleman Asia - Powermate Generators and Air Compressors
	2:00 to 3:00	Taytan International - Magnetizer Hard Water Conditioner
	3:00 to 4:00	Clear Defense Phils., Inc.
	4:00 to 5:00	Infratex - Dual Wall PE Drainage Pipes & Fitting
18 March	11:00 to 12:00	Taytan International - Magnetizer Hard Water Conditioner
	1:00 to 2:00	Dutchboy -The Wonders of Dutchboy Multicolor Paint
	2:00 to 3:00	Stoneworks -The Stoneworks Technology of Cast Polymer Products
	3:00 to 4:00	SMJ Furnishings (S) Pte Ltd

Show HOURS

14 March 2001 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm	*for trade visitors*
15 March 2001 - 10:00 am to 8:00 pm	*for trade visitors*
16 March 2001 - 10:00 am to 8:00 pm	*for trade visitors*
17 March 2001 - 10:00 am to 8:00 pm	*for general public & students*
18 March 2001 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm	*for general public & students*

Children below 10 years old are not allowed inside the exhibit hall

Program of ACTIVITIES

14 March 2001	10:00 AM WTCMM	Opening Ceremonies
14 March 2001	6:30 PM Baluarte de San Diego Intramuros, Manila	Filipiniana Night (by invitation only)
15-16 March 2001	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Century Park Hotel	3rd Worldbex Seminars 2001
14 March 2001 15-18 March 2001	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Stage Area WTCMM	Product Demonstrations

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Engr. Ernesto Battad, Sr. (Philippines)

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Prof. Bruce Etherington (USA)

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Mr. Val Abeng (Philippines)

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Mr. Vincent Rowan (UK)

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Dr. Manfred Adamer (Austria)

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Mr. Joseph Wong (Hong Kong)

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Worldbex seminars discounts extended

CONSIDERING the overwhelming response received by the 3rd Worldbex Seminars 2001, where 300 construction professionals have already signed in, the offering of registration has been extended to further accommodate interested applicants. The seminar proper will be on March 15 to 16 at the Century Park Hotel.

Those who have not availed of the early registration discount may still enjoy 50 percent markdown on the registration fee, provided they are bona fide members of associations related to the construction industry. Professionals who wish to avail of this privilege need only to present their membership cards upon registration.

Being held in conjunction with Worldbex 2001—the global construction trade exposition slated from March 14 to 18 at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila—will cover various fields of construction and allied industries. The seminar is in line with the Worldbex 2001 theme "Spelling the Difference in Global Construction."

Participants, who will attend all the 10 sessions of the seminar series, will be entitled to join a raffle, which gives them the chance to win an all-expense paid educational trip to Hong Kong. The raffle draw is on March 16.

For further inquiries, call up the Worldbex Seminars 2001 secretariat at 531-6374, 531-6350 or e-mail worldbexsems@pacific.net.ph.

Developers meet today

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association is holding this month's meeting today at Ballroom 3, New World Hotel, Makati City.

Invited to address the group, composed of developers primarily engaged in housing production for the government shelter program, is Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

According to SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez, Defensor's previous schedule with the SHDA was reset for this meeting after he has confirmed that he is staying in the Macapagal cabinet.

Earlier, the SHDA expressed support to Defensor's leadership in housing and urban development, and to the President Macapagal administration that has vowed to pursue poverty eradication, consultative governance, close cooperation with the private sector and provision of social bias to business and national development.

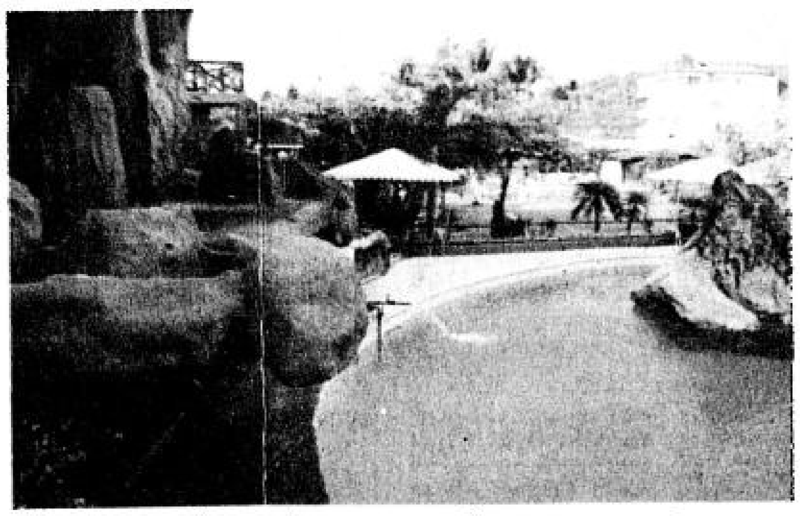
White Rock expands resort facilities

WHITE Rock, Subic Bay's premier beach hotel, expands its resort and hotel facilities as part of a 5-year redevelopment program and in preparation for summer.

According to White Rock Beach Hotel chair George U. Lorenzana, the expansion includes improvements in hotel accommodations, landscape, amenities and ambience in the whole 5.6-hectare resort complex; and a construction of a floating restaurant by the bay.

Beach improvements include the construction of pathwalks throughout the resort and across the golden sand beach to provide convenience to beachgoers.

Additional giant cogon huts have also been constructed to serve more beachgoers. For those who just want to "while away" their lazy afternoon, 18 hammocks are scattered under coconut trees. In addition, the seven newly built native pavilions intended for social gatherings exude a homey and traditional setting for everyday occasions. For indoor functions, White Rook's five function rooms found at the annex building were also renovated to accommodate 15-300 guests.


THE POOL area has undergone a renovation process.

Apart from the beach, the pool area has also undergone a renovation process. The Olympic-sized pool, with a level 5-ft. depth for adults, and the kiddie pool have been fitted with glowing waterfalls. The pool area offers more than bathing services; it now has a pool basketball, pool bar, spa, jacuzzi and massage area. Guests can sweat out inside the spa room, or get a rejuvenating massage from well-trained masseurs.

Additional greenery and sunbathing areas were also installed, making the area refreshing for guests. Kids will also enjoy the water slides in both pools.

Meanwhile, for those who want to ignore their diets and sample some exquisite, palate-pleasing dishes, the newly renovated Pinoy Bistro Coffee Shop offers tried and tested combo and menu meals at reasonable prices.

This same type of food service can be expected soon at the Bayside Grill and BBQ Plaza, a "floating" restaurant by the beach. This spacious restaurant with a nipa-hut-inspired design will be open for the summer season. Guests of the resort can dine al fresco style in this floating restaurant amid the panoramic view of Subic Bay.

After a hearty meal, guests are invited to get rid of some excess poundage through watersports activities they offer. The resort recently entered into a tie-up with Johans Adventure and Wreck Dive Center, offering diving trips for beginners or amateurs into depths ranging from 15 to 35 meters for adventurous clients. Subic Bay has about 20 shipwrecks to choose from.

Aside from diving, White Rock still offers jet-skiing, kayaking, snorkel trips, water skiing, knee/wave board, parasailing and banana ride.

Apart from watersports, White Rock has loads more of other wholesome amusement attractions. The resort has upgraded its KTV facilities for families and friends to enjoy. Guests can now watch in-house movies (DVD) or play the Karaoke at the KTV Room on exclusive or individual basis. Meanwhile, the newly renovated recreation center offers indoor games such as billiards, table tennis and dart.

A "rolling hill" and a playground were also constructed for the kids to enjoy while young and old can try the amateur archery range, putting greens and the basket ball court.

Rest and relaxation facilities were not neglected during the renovation process. The family rooms at the main hotel have been remodeled to satisfy the needs of the whole family. Each family room has two bedrooms, a living room and a bathroom for the convenience of the vacationing families. All the hotel rooms have also been refurbished and equipped with cable TV. Aside from these new additions, the main hotel view deck overlooking Subic Bay, Zambales mountain ranges and surrounding islands, and the hotel canopy have also been subjected to remodeling and repainting to appear more inviting this summer.

Leasing activity at Pacific Plaza Towers heats up

WITH THE RECENT completion of Pacific Plaza Towers at Fort Bonifacio, FPDSavills has noted a rapid increase in leasing activity in the project. This was announced by Tina Templeton, associate director of FPDSavills Residential, who is handling the leasing for the developer.

Templeton said interest in the Pacific Plaza Towers has intensified in recent months. She explained that the choice of having a quality luxury apartment where all the management issues are handled by someone else is enticing.

Said Templeton: "At present, we have a number of stunning three-bedroom units available and we expect these to lease out in the range of P150,000 to P190,000 per month. With 300 sq. m. of space and panoramic views of the Manila Golf course and the Makati skyline, apartments are going fast. And for those with larger budgets seeking the ultimate penthouse, a 550-sq.-m. apartment will set you back slightly at more than P300,000 per month."

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The **Light and Living** ranges will let innovation enter your house with their state-of-the-art switches and sockets, equipped with new functions such as infra red dimmers, sensors, safety devices, sound diffusion systems, room thermostat, etc.

The **Light** series differs with its simple, basic, linear design with soft colors. Its various materials (from gum resin to mica resin, from die-cast metal to aluminum and real wood), highlight the white switch design and light ergonomy. The cover plates, in diverse colors and materials, improve the setting where they are installed.

The **Living** series, on the other hand, is characterized by particular shapes, glossy colors and materials. The rounded shapes and the sober rubber finish can match any interior decoration requirement. Cover plates' colors and a variety of materials - from metal to polymers to real wood - associated with black devices, meet all aesthetic requirements.

Innovative shapes, ergonomic controls, a wide range of colors and materials for the cover plates, these are the elements characterizing the design of Light and Living. These series have been cited with numerous praises including the nomination for the IF award with the Light series (Industrie Forum Design-Hannover) and the Roten Punkt for both series (Design Zentrum-Essen-Westfalen. The equipment compliance with the most recent technical standards ensures state-of-the-art electrical installations.

The **Magic Advance** range provides simple, white wiring devices following new trends in design: pure white color and soft shapes. Featured by the particular rounded form of the cover plates, Magic Advance blends nicely with any interior decoration. Available in white resin or natural aluminum, the cover plates enhance the design and ergonomic features of the light switch. For those who wish a personalized decoration, BTicino has prepared special ornamental frames, available in five colors, that may be applied to the whole range of the Magic Advance series. Each grounded universal socket outlet is also equipped with shutters for the maximum safety of every user.

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Note: BTicino announces its second Golf Trophy on May 10,2001,6:00 AM, at The Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Dubbed "Switches N' Swings", the event will also feature the launching of New Idrobox, BTicino's latest range of weatherproof housings for wiring devices.

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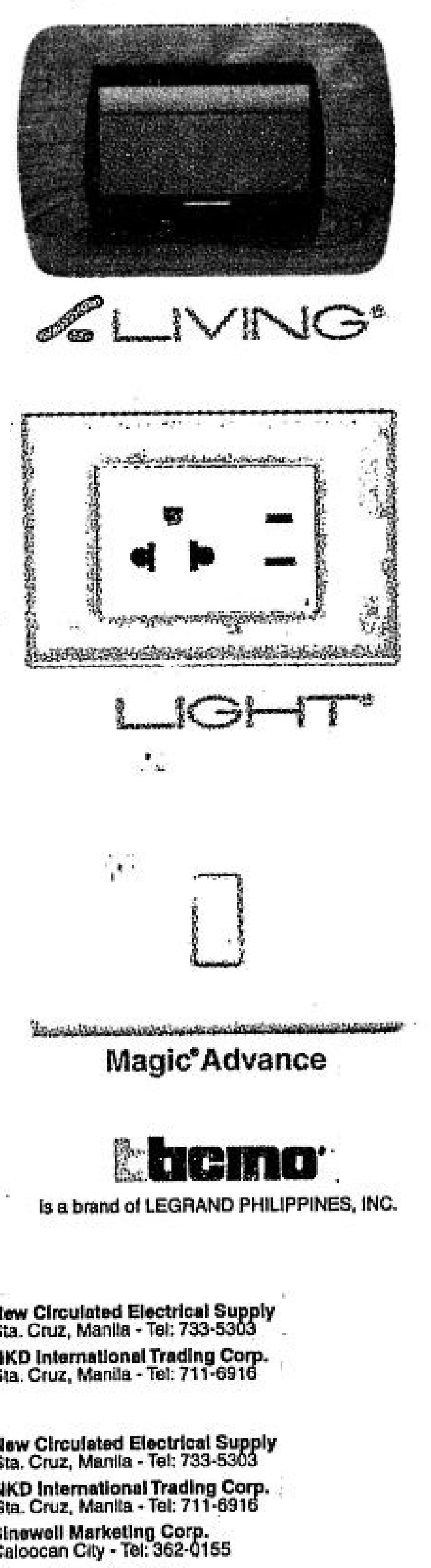

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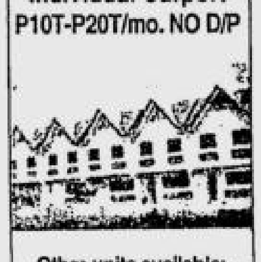

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ALABANG

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LAS PINAS

**Bn DPlex BFalmza Nr Fr FA208 3Br Mds 2.7M 8253244

BFR 200m² 2Sty 4BR BN P3.9M 800-7749/802-8228

BFR 208m² 3BR P2.3M 8007749

BFRes 180m² 3br 2tb 1.6M 1.8M 2.5M 8726951 • 8723140

BFRes 300m² Cor. 3BR 2TB 3.3M 872-6951 • 872-3140

Auburn Place New 2Stry 3BR 2.2M Terms 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry Corner 4BR 4TB 2.9M 872-6951

Citadella 296m² 2Sty 4BR w/Attic 4CG P6.5M 8007749

Auburn Place 2.2M 2stys 3br 2tb new Term 8747234

Manuela 4A 192 @5700/m² Neg. • Tel.# 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg 3br 3tb 2carport LA186 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 2sty 3br 2tb Single Terms • 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg LA341 2BR 1TB FA70 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.5M 3br 2tb Phone 2Carport LA180 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.6M Neg 2sty 4br 3tb B-New 874-7234 Pepe

BFRV 2.2M 3br 2tb Phone Neg LA144 FA90 874-7234

Pilar BNew 2Stry 4br 3TB Nice P2.7M • 872-6951

LPinas New 2Stry 3BR 2TB 2.2M Terms • 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry 4BR 3TB 3.8M Terms 872-6951

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

**2Bdrm 170m² Salcedo FF 7766018 / 09178622577

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

Magallanes Subd. - Makati H&L LA367 3BR 643-5313

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

BF 4BR 269m² BN P8.9 8007749

BF Ex 280LA 3BR BN 6M 8007749

PASIG

Psg Bo Kapitolyo H&L New 5BTB 24hrs H'O • 643-5313

Valle Verde LA840 FA600 4br 6pkg Elegant 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

**Ayala Heights QC Houses P16m-P19M Call 9333714

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**Greenmeadows 30T/sqm. Facing East 658-2410

Greenmeadows LA805 FA650 6br 8pkg Jacuzzi 681-2457

•GSIS Hills C-5/Quirino Hi. New 3.9M LA300 4br 7215226

House & Lot Kamuning QC LA350 4BR P13M 533-5525

House & Lot QC LA600m² 5BR 15M 400m² 533-5525

Maginhawa U.P. VII H&L LA650sqm P10M 633-4107

New Mla 1481114621

Samat St. w/5sty Bldg 600 SMH QC Whse 9298376

Sta. Mesa Hts 240m² 3BR 3TB Mds Rm 5M 931-7898

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RIZAL

Birmingham Place Cainta 260m² 2.6M Rush 6334107

SAN JUAN

Nr. Aurora Blvd/N.Domingo P9M LA233 4br DBO 7215226

**Nr LaSalle 2BR Prkg 3M Furnished 71m² 532-1651

PROVINCIAL

Sta.Rosa Laguna House for Rent/Sale Call:09178160736

Tagatay 249.5m 2sty BNew Tel.# 453-4877

Tagaytay L286m² 2Sty Bnew 453-4877 • 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo Cal. City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 453-4877

LAS PINAS

BFRV 180m² @ 6,500/m² Near Philam • 874-7234

Camella Prop. Barcelona Sub. •5411121•8741303•

BF Resort 169m² 176m² 180m² 6500/m² • 874-7234

BFRV 176m² @6500/m² neg near BlumField 874-7234

Manuela 4A Thru Verdant 192m² @5700 Neg 8747234

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6500 • 874-7234

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MAKATI

Zobel Roxas cor. ABCD St., 1380m² 8969625 / 8969678

MANILA

UNIVERSITY BELT 300sqm/444sqm 937-2622/937-2640

MANDALUYONG

•Nr Shaw Addition Hills• 4000m² Thse Proj 721-5226

MARIKINA

Marikina Heights 1860m² P6.5M Neg. • 931-7898

MUNTINLUPA

**Nice Loc M Sun 880m² @18,500/m² Neg 8253244

PARANAQUE

Sucat V/L 724m² w/Old Hse at rear 22M neg. 643-5313

PASIG

Along C-Raymundo 3840m² @ 7.8T/m² 30%DP BalTerms Tel 6011766 DBO

**Comml LOT Sixto Ave Cor 962m² 141-259275

Greenwoods 136 sqm 127754202

QUEZON CITY

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO 721-5226

Corinthian Lots 40T up 7240394/7226578 0917-4792264

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • Tel 928-1469

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • Tel.# 928-1469

Ma Clara Nr. Banawe 1Tm² 23T/m² 724-0394/722-6578

New Mla QC 7449m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

**Scout Cor LOT w/ Fence 800m² 231/m² 9283267

Sikatuna V 600m² 12M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

West Tri. 434 P10.8M Old House DBO 721-5226

RIZAL

246m² 3.9T/m² VISTA VERDE Cainta 6467425

Pililla Rizal Along Hway 81&37has@ 70m² 6811766

PROVINCIAL

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hiway Tel 453-4877

Puerto Princesa good 4 fstfood bank 0917-3711210

Southwoods Cavite 480m² Face South P7T 633-4107

TANAWAN 2247m² P800T 5637507

•Tiaong Quezon 3.6Hec• 600/m² Town Hway 7215226

OTHER AREAS

300 sqm: Resd'l Lot, Brgy. Tabi, Guiguinto Bul. 922-3297

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

**Caloocan GF 360m² 2Sly Use 3Sty Whse 9283267

MAKATI

•Rush! Le Domain 2BR 6M •90m² 4121825/ 150341394

•88 Corp. Ctr BNew 178m² Sale or Rent 412-1825

MANILA

Bnew w/garage Singalong nr St. Anthony 2.8MT 5246160

MANDALUYONG

Rush!MegaPlaza 48.50sqm 1br 2.7MNeg 09178143792

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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Pioneer Highlands 129sqm 3BR w/Maid Rm F-Furnish P8M Neg. DBO Nice View 640-4037 6-12am Mon-Fri

T'house Mandaluyong 4BR Fa150 P6.5M • 533-5525

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M "EZ"terms Swap Lots Cars C. Shares 9120647 9124428 4381480

BURGUNDY Plaza QC 2BR 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

Bnew Gilmore / N. Domingo P3.6M 90m² 2br DBO 721-5226

NOVALICHES 350T 9390299

**Scout Townhse 115m² LOT 280m² 3Sty 5M Nice 9283267

RIZAL

Montalban 350T 913-0393

SAN JUAN

**Annapolis Greenhills Condo 2-3Br 7-8M 9283267

OTHER AREAS

**1-3BR Condo Units Avail Call 894-4879 / 7526402

**Sct Madrinan Twnhse 7.4M 3Stry 2Pkg 230m² 5221651

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Loyola Memorial Plots Sucat Paranaque Virgie Call 913-2554 or 929-7110

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Br 2Sty Bancal P8500 8176115

Mkt. Apt. 4 rent T8954370

MANDALUYONG

2BR w/Garage/Tel. 531-0964

PASAY

NEAR HP 5,500 1BR 5369502 0917847-3727 PG141-208065

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 2sty T-998-2547

SAN JUAN

111 Hoover San Juan 2BR 1TB 1Park P12T T-7244645

2BR San Juan 9251348/49; 9206694

HOUSE

MAKATI

• Dasmarinas VIII Makati • 4BR 4383970 0917-7914379

2005 Kalachuchi Dasma V. 3BR WDen & Pool 8176115

QUEZON CITY

New Intramuros QC 120m² 2BR 1TB 2cg 10K 931-7898

RIZAL

Country Homes Cainta P9T /mo Rent to Own 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

**Amorsolo East Rockwell 1Br Pkg FF 50T 8253244

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

**Le Metroploe Salcedo 3br 2pkg 175m² FF 80T 8253244

Makati FA300m² 3BR FF 85T UNF 100T/mo 5335525

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong 1BR New 77m² P2.4M UNF 533-5525

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

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MAKATI
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  1 Condo Office Unit
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  or Sale @ P3.18 Million
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  Yard 1,000 sqm
  Jupiter St., Office Bldg., 4-storey
  Net FA: 1,455 sqm
  Parking 11 Slots

MANILA
- San Nicolas/Del Pan Sts.
  Concrete Warehouse
  Area: 1,579 sqm
  Lease @ P90/sqm or
  Sale @ P100,000/sqm
- Vito Cruz St., Malate
  Office-Residential Condo.
  Areas from 139-217sqm
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  P222.75-247/sqm.

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Acacia Gov. Pascual Ave.
Concrete Warehouse
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Monthly Rent P75/sqm

ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels: 818-2781; 751-5472

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CARS

HONDA

96+HVTec 340T neg. 7216583

96LXI P320T 09175330696

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS

HONDA

96VTI P348 1277-12659

KIA

Ceres 1996 P110T Dropside Nw Tires 6458678

MAZDA

94 Astima 185T 7216583

94 B2200 209T 8315830

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95 C220 AT Fld 722-2222 Bong

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91 GLNT GTi 235T 8315354

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95 LiteAce 722-2222 Bong

97 T. Crla XL 258T neg. Tel. 7216583 Accs. w/50Th orig. 93 LaceGXL 240T 7216583 84 TCrla 68T neg. 7216583

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D20P Dozer P160 3610215

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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Maid 4 Foreigner 726-1266

Ofc Staff9134470 MsArroyo

MALE/FEMALE

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LIVE and WORK in Canada Australia 8175511/8944950

HIRING OFFICE STAFF CALL 7366660 MS WENG

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

•GENERATOR FOR RENT• Tel.8907777 Cell.09178160736

AUCTION SALE

JMH Pawnshop will hold an Auction Sale on all expired pledges on March 16, 2001 Friday at 10:00am from the FF Offices at #7 Bonifacio St., Libis and Tentado St. Tanay Rizal, Lic. Auctioner - Greg Mendoza

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late Felix R. Raqueza has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Feb 22, 2001 under Doc 405 Page 81 Book III Series 2001 of Atty. Agustin G. Matavia of QC PDI-Feb27 March6&13, 2001

PERSONAL

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

THANK YOU ST. JUDE

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
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Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

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MACHINERY & EQUIPT. - (11) BLUE GIANT 4400 lbs. Cap. Materials Handling Scissor Lifts; (8) Motorized Bag Dump Stations; (2) JOA Auto Stackers; Roller Conveyors; (3) Electric Motors 60Hp; (3) SECO SV3000 Variable Speed Drives
AIR CONDITIONERS - KOPPEL SL 7.5 7500 BTU; (2) KOPPEL SL36 3600 BTU; (2) KOPPEL 3TR 3000 BTU Split Type Air Conditioners; (13) CONDURA 1 Hp Window Type; (2) NATIONAL 1Hp Window Type
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MISCELLANEOUS - IWATA Bundy Clock. H.D. Staplers; Pedestal Fan; Horizontal Blinds; White Boards; B&D Toaster; G.E. Two Door Ref.; Emergency Lights; HOOVER H.D. Automatic Washing Machine, etc.

AT: East Gate, #10 Main Light Industry & Science Park (LISP), Cabuyao, Laguna
ON: Thursday, 15th March 2001 at 10:30am
ON VIEW: Wednesday, 14th March 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
ON-SITE RULES: No Sandals, No Shorts, No Sleeveless Shirts, No Smoking
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000 (Upon Registration)

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Fax no. 846-7230 & 846-7240

INVITATION TO BID

The DOH-Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley hereby invites interested suppliers to provide drugs and medicines, medical, laboratory and dental supplies to this Office.

Interested suppliers who can provide the above-mentioned items may obtain documents from the Secretariat upon presentation of the original and photocopy of DOH Certificate of Suppliers Accreditation, License to Operate, Certificate of Product Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P800.00.

1. Pre-qualification and Issuance of bid/tender documents	**March 26 to March 30, 2001** 12:00 p.m.
2. Pre-bid conference	**March 30, 2001** (1:00 p.m.)
3. Submission and opening of bids	**April 18, 2001** (9:00 a.m.)

Venue:

DOH-Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City
Main Conference Hall

The DOH-CHD for Cagayan Valley reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids as maybe advantageous and responsive to the needs of this Office. For more details, call 844-1748 Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **MERCEDITAS V. CAVANEYRO, MD, MPH, MPA, CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI – March 12, 13 & 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
11th Judicial Region
Branch 10
Davao City

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION PLAN AND FOR APPOINTMENT OF A REHABILITATION RECEIVER

SP. PROC. NO. 5773-2001

SUMERLAND INN, INC.,
represented by ABUNDIO T.
MERCED, President,
Petitioner.
x--------------------------------------x

STAY ORDER

The petitioner, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with principal office in Davao City, filed a Petition for approval of its rehabilitation plan, attached as Annex "J", alleging in the main that it is engaged in the business of operating tourist inns, beach resorts and restaurants; that its total assets are worth P56,754,283.39 with total liabilities amounting only to P16,151,595.02; that, however, it is unable to pay its accrued and maturing obligations on account of liquidity problems brought about by the Asian financial crisis aggravated by the armed conflict in central Mindanao; that it will be able to pay all its obligations if its rehabilitation plan is approved, especially now that there are improved economic conditions under the new Administration; and prays for the issuance of an order to stay all claims against it in the meantime that the rehabilitation plan is under consideration.

Mr. Rufino Bangi, accordingly a certified public accountant, is hereby appointed as rehabilitation receiver in accordance with the Interim Rules promulgated by the Hon. Supreme Court to be followed in rehabilitation cases. He is required to post a surety bond of P500,000.00 in favor of the petitioner to guarantee the faithful performance of his function and duties as such. He is directed to signify his acceptance of this appointment within ten (10) days from receipt hereof. If he accepts, he is to take an oath before this Court in accordance with Section 15 of the Interim Rules.

The enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner is hereby STAYED.

The petitioner is hereby prohibited from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business.

It is prohibited from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of its Petition.

The suppliers of goods and services to the petitioner are also prohibited from withholding supplies thereof from the petitioner in the ordinary course of business as long as the latter pays for goods supplied and services rendered after the issuance of this STAY ORDER.

The petitioner is directed to pay in full all administrative liabilities to be incurred after the issuance of this STAY ORDER.

The Petition is hereby set for initial hearing on April 18, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. and, for this purpose, the petitioner is directed to publish this STAY ORDER in the Philippine Daily Inquirer once a week for two consecutive weeks, starting not later than seven (7) days from the date hereof.

All creditors and all other interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are directed to secure from this Court copies of the Petition and its annexes as soon as possible to enable them to file their comment on or opposition to the Petition and to prepare for the initial hearing; and are hereby directed to do so with supporting affidavits and documents not later than ten (10) days before the initial hearing on April 18, 2001, otherwise they will be barred from participating in the proceedings of this case.

These are all pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of the Interim Rules.

SO ORDERED.

Davao City, Philippines, February 27, 2001.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. BREVA**
Judge

Copy furnished:

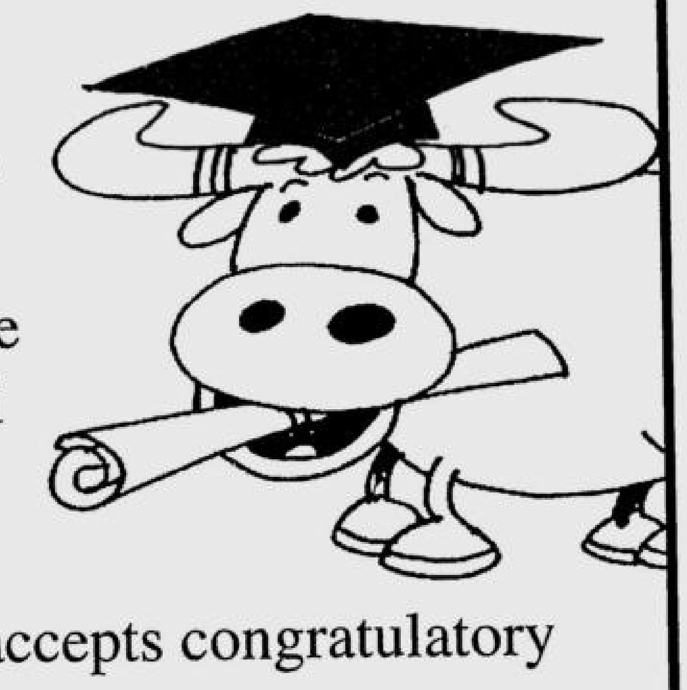
Atty. Bienvenido D. Cariaga
Davao City .... per.

Mr. Rufino Bangi
Corner 6th Avenue
Fortune Executive Homes
Lanang, Davao City . ... reg.

AVB/hdm;

(PDI – Mar. 6 & 13, 2001)

SUCCESS!



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INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cloning around

The thought of human clones tingles along the spine; yet all of us have met clones, some of us are clones, and many of us have created or eaten clones. Identical twins, triplets, and so on began as a single primitive embryo that broke into two or more genetically identical fragments early on; each fragment then developed into a separate individual, creating a natural clone. Farmers commonly graft cuttings from a desirable plant to replicate it. A classic example is the navel orange, which originated as a mutant branch on a missionary's tree in Bahia, Brazil, over 100 years ago. Today this seedless fruit is grown on millions of trees around the world, all cloned from that original branch. All these techniques work with natural genes, units of inheritance that have appeared over millions of years of evolution. This genetic information is recorded in the structure of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), an extremely long molecule that forms the core of each of our chromosomes, the repositories of our genetic inheritance.

Which Is Which? Copy/Replica. A *copy* is an imitation or reproduction of an original: "The *photocopy* of his birth certificate did not satisfy the consul, who insisted on seeing the real thing." *Replica* at one time stood for a *copy* made by the person who created the original, and some purists still prefer that definition. However, modern dictionaries allow that a *replica* is a close reproduction regardless of who did the copying.

First of All. The first modern refrigerator for home use appeared in 1913. In America the first model on the market was the Domelre, an electrically-powered machine manufactured in Chicago. It had a wooden cabinet with a compression-type refrigerating unit mounted on the top. In Europe the same year, the first refrigerator was offered by the German electrical giant AEG of Nuremberg. This was a large double unit with four shelves made of pewter in each, and lined with white ceramic tiles. Five years later, Nathaniel West (U.S.) designed a device that was widely marketed under the name Kelvinator. In 1923 Frigidaire introduced the first self-contained household refrigerator.

WORD WATCH

Pridyider : Tagalog rendering of the trademark *Frigidaire*.

PDI – March 13, 2001

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OBITUARIES

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Today, we remember our Beloved

DR. MANUEL S.A. FETALINO, FPCR

Odiongan, Romblon
Quezon City
September 30, 1930 - March 13, 2000

on his First Death Anniversary

now in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father in His Eternal Kingdom.

Masses will be offered today in his memory at the following churches:

6:00 a.m.	**San Vicente Ferrer Church**, Odiongan, Romblon
6:00 a.m.	**Holy Trinity Parish Church**, Chopin Street, Quezon City
6:00 a.m.	**Queen of Peace Church**, Hilado Street, Bacolod City
6:00 a.m.	**St. Peter The Fisherman Church**, Napindan, Taguig, Rizal
6:30 a.m.	**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Chapel**, Monte Vista Village, Bacolod City
7:30 a.m.	**Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Metropolitan Cathedral)**, Intramuros, Manila
12:00 nn	**St. Peter's Cathedral**, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
12:00 nn	**Nuestra Sra. De Guia**, Ermita, Manila
12:00 nn	**Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Metropolitan Cathedral)**, Intramuros, Manila
6:00 p.m.	**Our Lady of Remedies**, Malate, Manila
6:30 p.m.	**Don Jose Covered Court**, Don Jose Subdivision, Capitol Site, Quezon City
7:00 p.m.	**The Good Shepherd Parish Church**, Fairview, Quezon City

To all of you who blessed him with love, prayers and friendship, and in the end stood by us to ease the pain, Thank you and God Bless you as richly as we have been blessed by you.

His loving wife **Eva**; children **Eric** and **Shellane**, **Liza Rose**, **Michelle** and **Mark**, **Eva Marie** and **Joel**; and grandson **Teddy**; sisters and brothers **Adoring**, **Peping**, **Nena**, **Rosie**, **Ben**; in-laws **Gloring**, **Helen**, **Celo**, **Lily**, **Tony**, **Cely**, **Eddie**, **Marilou**, **Mael**, **Asa**, **Junior**, **Hecky** and **Chito**; nephews and nieces.

"Over the sunset mountains
Someday I'll softly go
Into the arms of Jesus
He who has loved me so."

DR. RODNEY A. GOMEZ

Bacolod City

Peacefully went home to his Lord on March 9, 2001
at the age of 74.

He is survived by his beloved wife **Grace**; children **Tessa** and **Lisa** and their families.

His remains lie in state at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Interment is on Saturday, March 17, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bacolod Memorial Park after a Necrological Service at the Northside Baptist Church, Bacolod City.

Our Dearly Beloved

CECILIA MACARAIG PANGANIBAN

peacefully joined our Lord on March 11, 2001
at the age of 60.

Her loving mother **Soledad** and father **Elpidio** (†), siblings and in-laws **Ben** and **Fortune**, **Lucy**, **Torrie** and **Bert Coronel**, **Teddy** and **Beth**, **Mario** and **Jane**; nephews and nieces and their children, **Mark**, **Joy** and **Selle - Arielle**, **Jamil**; **Alan**, **Kristine**, **Dianne**, **Bobby** and **Emily - Casey**; **Albert**, **Trin**, **Trish**, **Angela**, **Lallie**, **Lawrence**, **Paulo**; aunt, **Petty Panganiban Tan**, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Green Meadows, Pasig. There will be a funeral Mass on Thursday, March 15, 2001 at 8:00 AM. Interment will follow at the Municipal Cemetery of Tanauan, Batangas.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

FELISA S. JAVIER

"Mommy Fely"

has peacefully joined her Creator on March 10, 2001 at the age of 75.

She is survived by her children **Jimmy Javier**, **Aida Esmeralda**, **Ida Evangelista**; daughter-in-law **Belen Javier**; son-in-law **Resty Evangelista**; and grandsons **Juan Paolo**, **Carlo Emmanuel**, **Ace**, **Red**, **Gio**, **Ivan Darren**, and **Jerome**.
Her body lies in state at 3301 Almazar Street, Makati City.
Interment will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at 2:00 PM at the Manila South Cemetery, Makati City.
Please omit flowers and mass cards.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

"The Lord gives and the Lord takes away
Blessed be the name of the Lord forever."

GIANCARLO ANGELO POSADAS LEUNG

Born: March 17, 1978
Loving son and precious brother was called home
to the Eternal Father on March 11, 2001

Daddy Chuck, **Mumzie Lota**, **Kuya Vinz**, **Ate Mae**, **Renzo**, **Ate Jenz**, **Dan**, **Mykee**, **Dennis**; all the **Posadases** and the **Leungs** request the pious reader for a prayer of Peace, Healing and Reconciliation.

Presently lies in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on March 17, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

FR. SEBASTIAN ANTONIO F. POSADAS, OP

of the Dominican Province of the Philippines

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 12, 2001 at the age of 78.
(May 10, 1922 - March 12, 2001)

His sister **Josefina P. Garcia** and brother-in-law **Cesar Garcia**; nephews and niece **Esteban** and **Josefina Garcia**, **Maurino** and **Eulalie Garcia**, **Victor** and **Yolanda Garcia**, **Tessie** and **Ernie Angtuaco**; together with the brethren of the Dominican Province of the Philippines request prayer offerings for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sto. Domingo Convent, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City until March 14 at 1 PM then vigil and necrological services will be held at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros on March 14, 2001 at 3 PM until March 15 at 9:00 AM.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 15, 2001 at the Dominican Cemetery in San Juan after the Mass in Santo Domingo Church at 2 PM.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOSE MANIO GATBONTON

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 03, 2001.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and message of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement

---

His Excellency
Most Reverend

PORFIRIO R. ILIGAN, D.D.

Bishop Emeritus of Masbate

died in the peace of the Lord
on 6 March 2001.

His body now lies in state at the Cathedral of Masbate and will be buried in the same Cathedral on 14 March 2001 at 9:00 AM.

"While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as his servants. Both in life and in death, we are the Lord's." - Rom. 14:8

ANGELINA FELEO VDA. DE MENDOZA

of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija

Born on October 2, 1919 and passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 9, 2001 at the age of 81.

The bereaved family **Josefina Mendoza Vda. de Sorza**, **Lauro** and **Bernadette**, **Angelo** and **Shirly**, **Jaime** and **Cristy**, sisters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Escobar St., San Jose City, N.E.

Interment will be on March 17, 2001, Saturday 2:30 p.m. at the San Jose City Cemetery, N.E.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.

John 11:25-26

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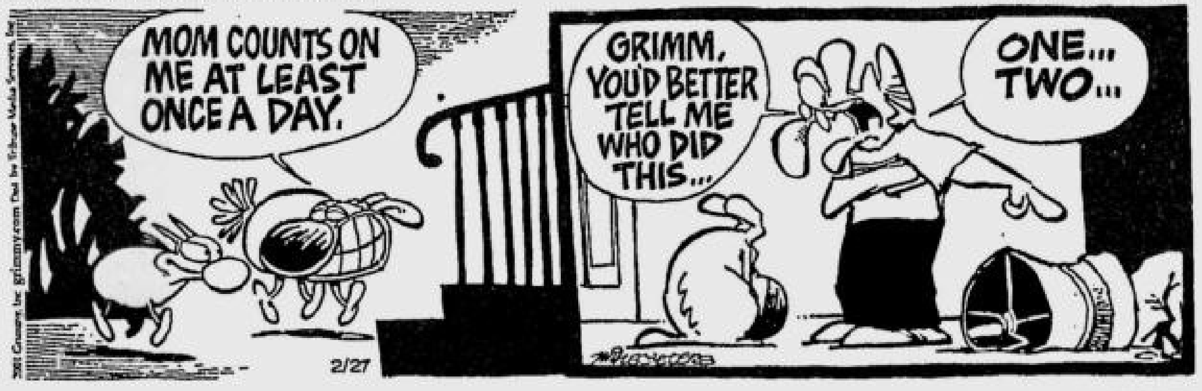
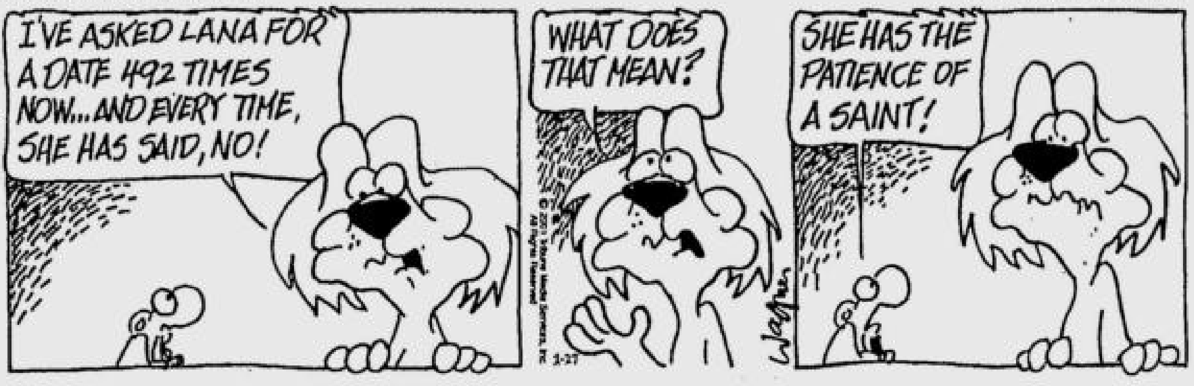
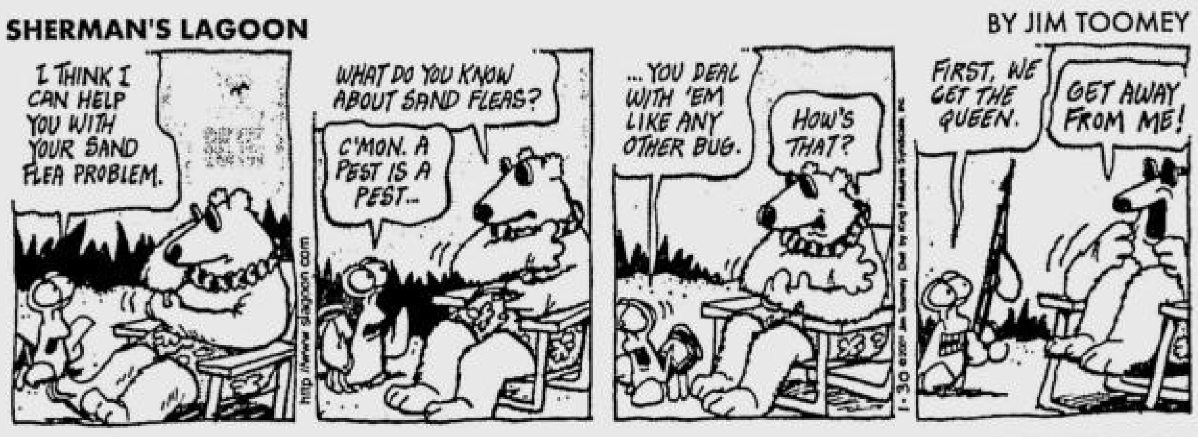
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


MOM COUNTS ON ME AT LEAST ONCE A DAY.
GRIMM, YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHO DID THIS...
ONE... TWO...
2/27

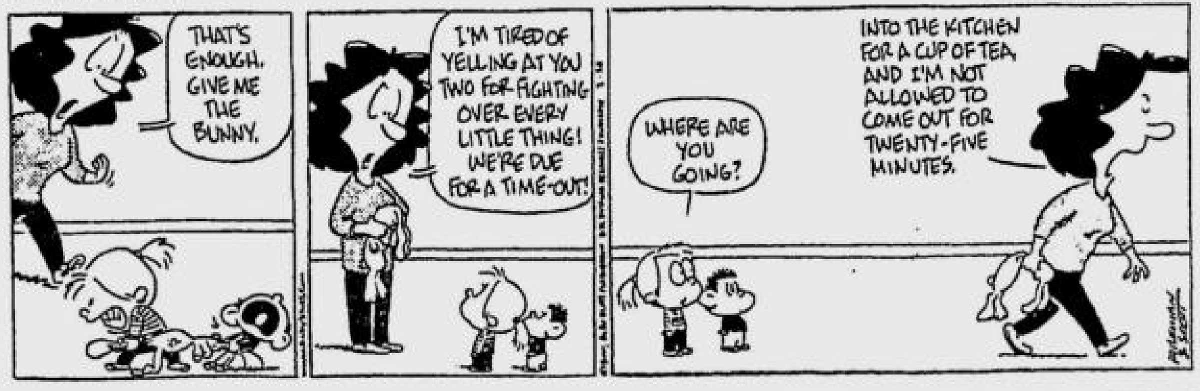
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


I'VE ASKED LANA FOR A DATE 492 TIMES NOW... AND EVERY TIME, SHE HAS SAID, NO!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
SHE HAS THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT!
3-27

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


I THINK I CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR SAND FLEA PROBLEM.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SAND FLEAS?
C'MON. A PEST IS A PEST...
...YOU DEAL WITH 'EM LIKE ANY OTHER BUG.
HOW'S THAT?
FIRST, WE GET THE QUEEN.
GET AWAY FROM ME!
http://www.slagoon.com
1-30

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S ENOUGH. GIVE ME THE BUNNY.
I'M TIRED OF YELLING AT YOU TWO FOR FIGHTING OVER EVERY LITTLE THING! WE'RE DUE FOR A TIME-OUT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
INTO THE KITCHEN FOR A CUP OF TEA AND I'M NOT ALLOWED TO COME OUT FOR TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dana Delany, Neil Sedaka, William H. Macy, Glenne Headly, Larry Solway, Joseph Mascolo

Happy Birthday: Your colorful, descriptive way of explaining things will aid you in getting the support you need this year. Take a stance, say what you feel, and put your mind to it that you can and will make a difference. Your original approach will win the admiration and dedication of others. Your numbers: 8, 13, 17, 22, 29, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be too quick to make decisions regarding legal matters. You will have to go over contracts with a fine-tooth comb. However, if all pans out, you could sign a deal of a lifetime.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): . Understanding will be a must when dealing with those you love. Give them a chance to explain the way they feel. You can probably help by offering some tender loving care.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let love interests at work stand in the way of your performance. You need to do the best job possible if you want to hang onto your position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time making personal improvements that will help you feel better about yourself. Changes in your domestic scene will be necessary even if you don't welcome them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be prepared to face opposition. Family members will not be happy with the number of hours you have been spending at work. Try to free up a bit more of your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give your secrets away. You can prosper if you focus your energy on your work and present your accomplishments by yourself. You need to make professional changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make gains if you talk to your boss about your findings. Promotions will be yours if you have acted professionally in times of crises.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Reading books on philosophy and self-awareness will bring about a definite change of attitude. You can influence those around you by standing firmly on your convictions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your curiosity will force you to do some research. A moneymaking opportunity looks prosperous as long as you do your homework well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Romance will find you if you join group events that you've been invited to. Don't be too eager to talk about yourself. Listen, and you'll learn a great deal about others.

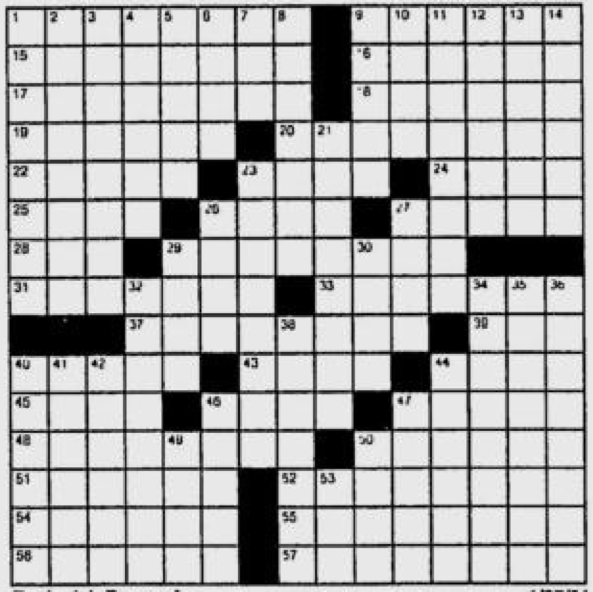
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Deception is apparent if you are dealing with your peers. Don't give away your secrets if you don't want them spread around. Jealousy is likely among co-workers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to change your direction. Don't be afraid to try something totally new. Your unique approach to your work will be appreciated by the right boss.

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, observant and will never back down from anything. You are determined but reticent and will always explore all the possibilities available to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
1/27/01

ACROSS
1 Slipping by
9 Loud kisses
15 Cone bearer
16 Argentine river port
17 Entry hymns
18 Like theaters and churches
19 Beer glasses
20 Built a burrow
22 Meg of "The Big Chill"
23 Metal containers
24 __ and void
25 Like most people born in August
26 Planters
27 Antiquated
28 Clairvoyant's letters
29 Predict
31 Patrick of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
33 Majestic
37 Certified
39 Pianist Cliburn
40 Discoloring stains
43 Force of astronauts
44 Nudnik
45 Eastern staple
46 Take sustenance
47 Andretti or Lemieux
48 Cloudy
50 Quarterback, often
51 Horatio or Ozzie
52 Tomahawks
54 Adopted
55 Appraise
56 Being
57 Pathological conditions

DOWN
1 St. Paul's letters
2 Full of the most fluff
3 Gnu or nilgai, for example
4 Dangers
5 Hardhearted
6 "The Sea, The Sea" author Murdoch
7 Bottom-line figure
8 Develop gradually
9 Traverses
10 Principal
11 Military supply depots
12 Localized thickening of the skin
13 Prepares to propose
14 Bike seat
21 Tacit
23 Retinues
26 City or town on a waterway
27 Begged
29 Hustler from Minnesota
30 She sheep
32 Perform at Weeki Wachee
34 Abroad
35 Actress Hartley
36 Sanctions
38 Got hot under the collar
40 "Agnes Grey" writer
41 Keep maturing
42 Spotted, nocturnal wildcat
44 City on the Merrimack
46 John Cleland novel, "__ Hill"
47 Twinned crystal
49 Old geezer
50 Education-minded orgs.
53 Fauna starter?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	G	O	■	O	S	L	O	■	S	P	L	A	T
L	O	R	D	■	R	A	I	D	■	T	R	O	P	E
M	A	E	S	M	A	I	Z	E	■	R	O	U	S	E
O	R	E	■	O	L	D	■	■	P	A	S	S	E	D
S	E	D	A	N	S	■	T	R	O	W	E	L	■	■
T	R	Y	S	T	■	A	Y	E	S	■	S	O	R	E
■	■	■	T	H	R	U	S	T	S	■	■	O	A	T
H	O	B	O	■	A	R	T	I	E	■	A	S	E	A
A	W	E	■	■	J	O	I	N	S	I	N	■	■	■
S	L	A	P	■	A	R	E	A	■	T	E	N	D	S
■	■	S	U	C	H	A	S	■	B	E	W	A	R	E
S	A	B	R	A	S	■	■	H	E	M	■	M	O	N
O	L	E	I	N	■	S	T	U	S	S	T	E	W	S
I	D	E	S	T	■	P	A	G	E	■	E	L	S	E
L	A	S	T	S	■	A	B	E	T	■	D	Y	E	S

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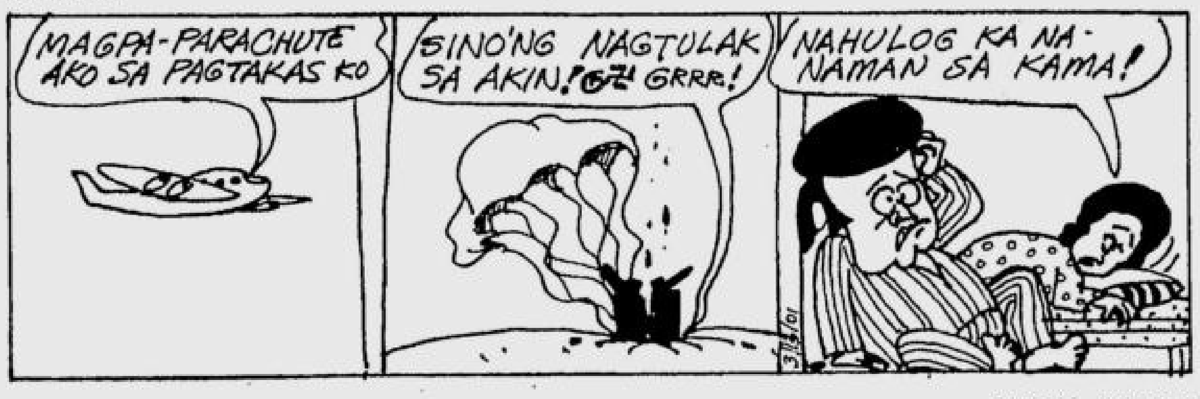
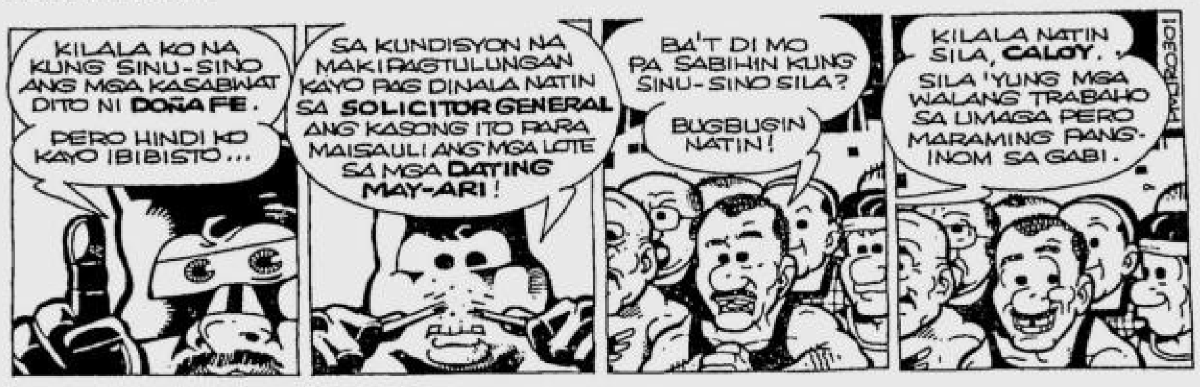
1/27/01

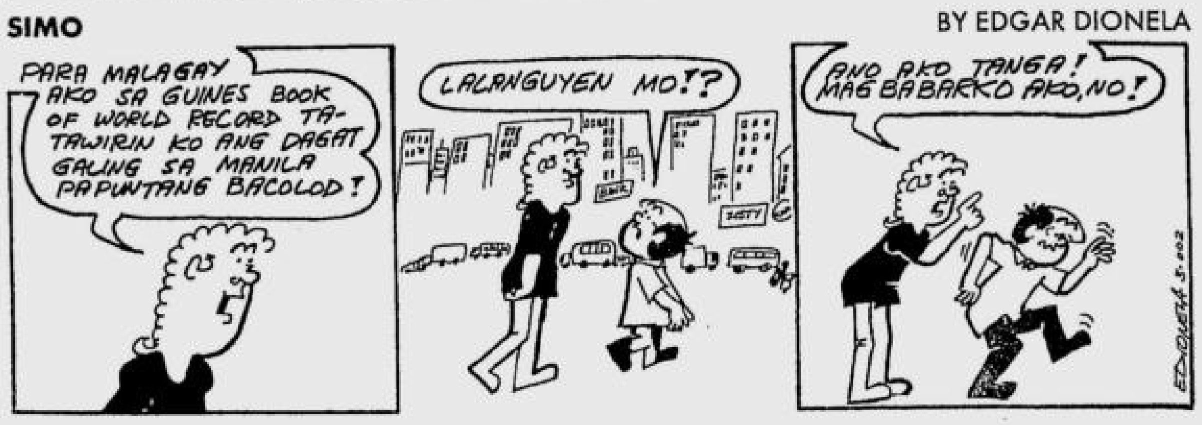
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MAGPA-PARACHUTE AKO SA PAGTAKAS KO
SINO'NG NAGTULAK SA AKIN! GRRR!
NAHULOG KA NA-NAMAN SA KAMA!
3/13/01

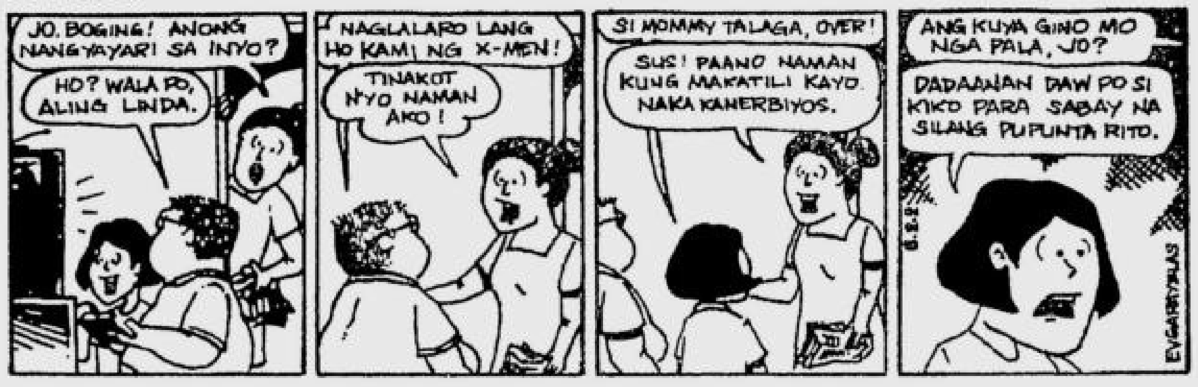
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


KILALA KO NA KUNG SINU-SINO ANG MGA KASABWAT DITO NI DOÑA FE.
PERO HINDI KO KAYO IBIBISTO...
SA KUNDISYON NA MAKIPAGTULUNGAN KAYO PAG DINALA NATIN SA SOLICITOR GENERAL ANG KASONG ITO PARA MAISAULI ANG MGA LOTE SA MGA DATING MAY-ARI!
BA'T DI MO PA SABIHIN KUNG SINU-SINO SILA?
BUGBUGIN NATIN!
KILALA NATIN SILA, CALOY.
SILA 'YUNG MGA WALANG TRABAHO SA UMAGA PERO MARAMING PANG-INOM SA GABI.
PMJR0301

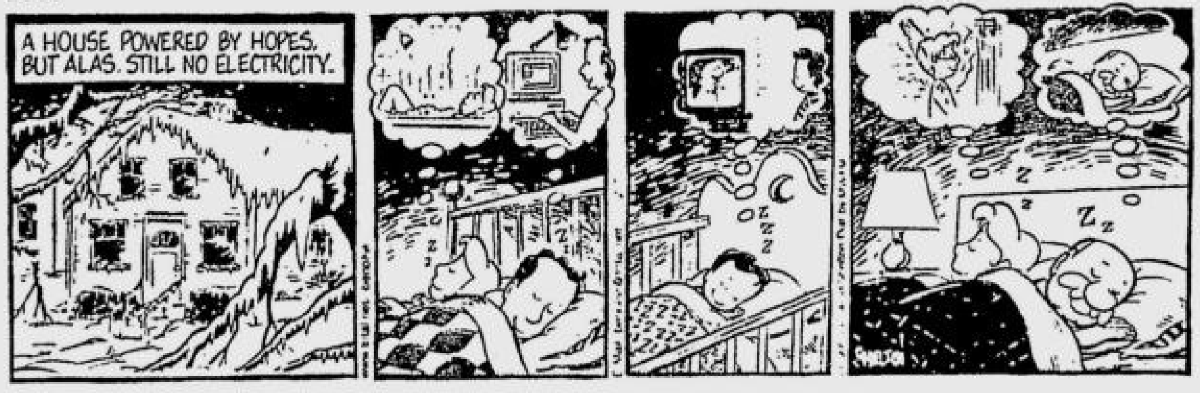
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARA MALAGAY AKO SA GUINES BOOK OF WORLD RECORD TA-TAWIRIN KO ANG DAGAT GALING SA MANILA PAPUNTANG BACOLOD!
LALANGUYEN MO!?
ANO AKO TANGA! MAG BABARKO AKO, NO!
EDIONELA 5-002

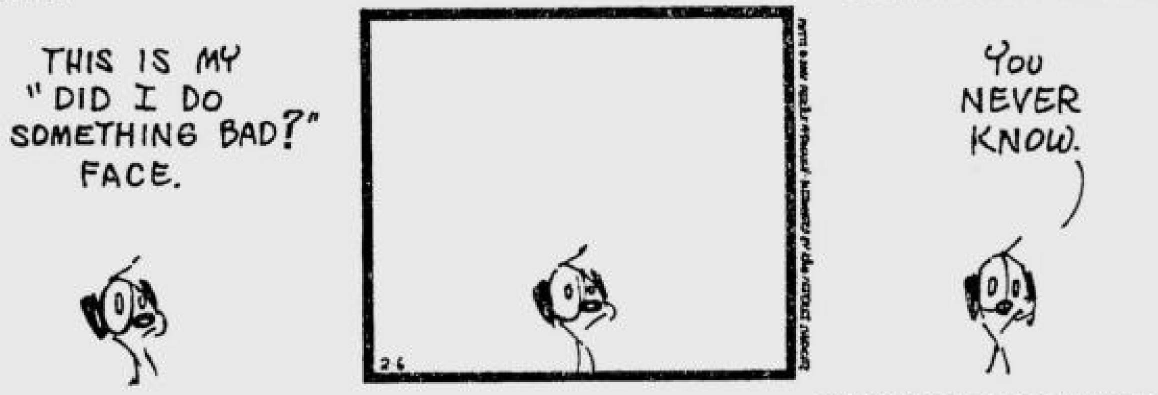
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


JO, BOGING! ANONG NANGYAYARI SA INYO?
HO? WALA PO, ALING LINDA.
NAGLALARO LANG HO KAMI NG X-MEN!
TINAKOT N'YO NAMAN AKO!
SI MOMMY TALAGA, OVER!
SUS! PAANO NAMAN KUNG MAKATILI KAYO. NAKA KANERBIYOS.
ANG KUYA GINO MO NGA PALA, JO?
DADAANAN DAW PO SI KIKO PARA SABAY NA SILANG PUPUNTA RITO.
EVGARRYALAS

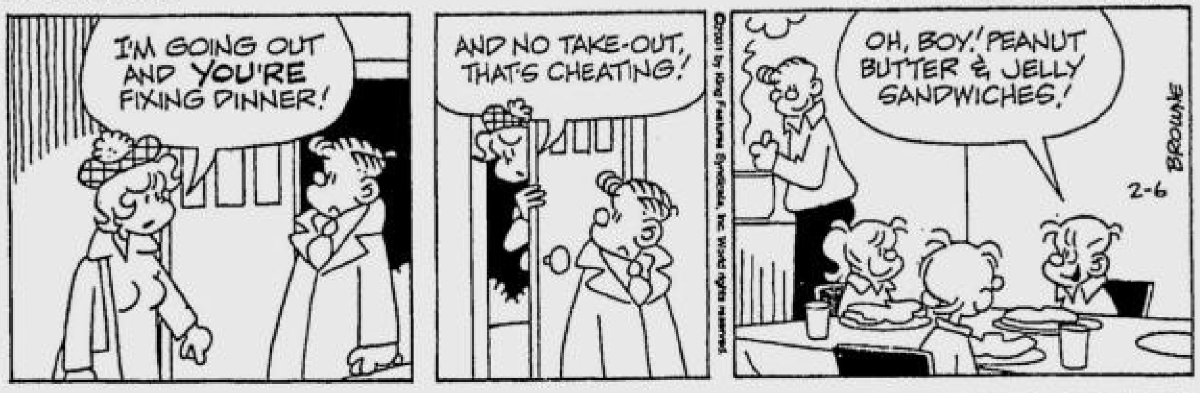
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


A HOUSE POWERED BY HOPES. BUT ALAS. STILL NO ELECTRICITY.
SHELTON

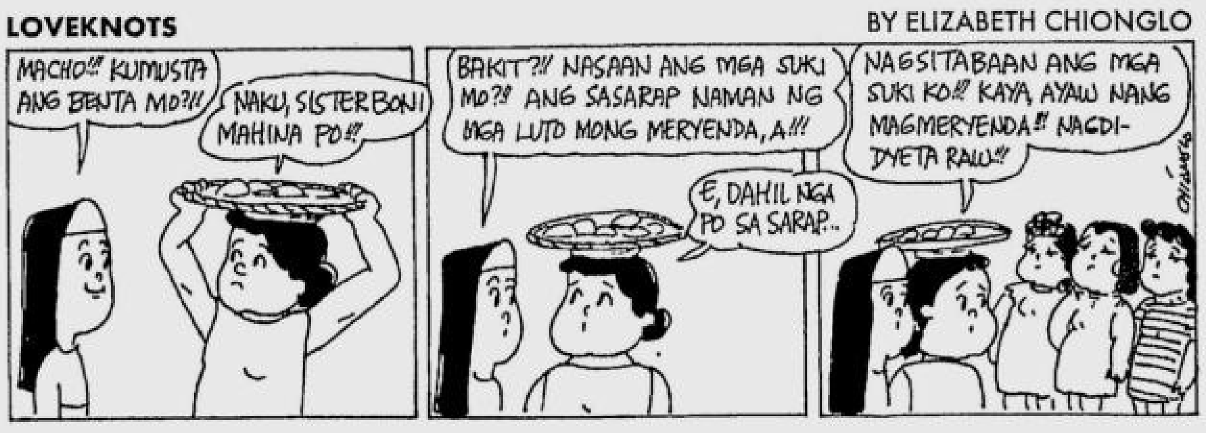
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?" FACE.
YOU NEVER KNOW.
2-6

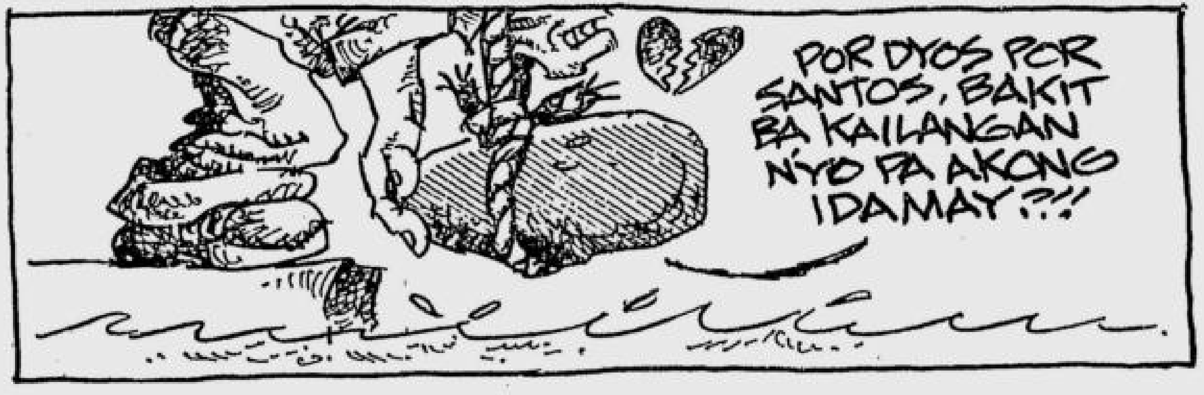
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M GOING OUT AND YOU'RE FIXING DINNER!
AND NO TAKE-OUT, THAT'S CHEATING!
OH, BOY! PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICHES!
BROWNE
2-6

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MACHO!! KUMUSTA ANG BENTA MO?!!
NAKU, SISTER BONI MAHINA PO!!
BAKIT?!! NASAAN ANG MGA SUKI MO?!! ANG SASARAP NAMAN NG MGA LUTO MONG MERYENDA, A!!!
E, DAHIL NGA PO SA SARAP..
NAGSITABAAN ANG MGA SUKI KO!! KAYA, AYAW NANG MAGMERYENDA!! NAGDI-DYETA RAW!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK NI TITO
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


POR DYOS POR SANTOS, BAKIT BA KAILANGAN N'YO PA AKONG IDAMAY?!!

How accurate are the calories you burn on cardio machines?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

THE HIGH-TECH cardiovascular machines of today have display panels with flashing lights and numbers that give you motivating feedback on how far you have walked, ran, hiked, climbed, etc., your heart rate and how many calories you have burned.

It is this last piece of information that many people are obsessed with. After all, one of the biggest reasons people exercise is to manage their weight and keep excess fat at bay. So a good question to ask is are you really burning the amount of calories cardio machines say you are? I wish there's a simple yes or no answer but there isn't because it depends on many factors.

According to the Tufts University Health and Nutrition Newsletter (May 1999), the error rate can be anywhere from 10 to 30 percent.

How much do you weigh?

The better machines ask for your weight to calculate how many calories you are burning. This helps to keep the error rate to a minimum because it is a law of physics that it takes more energy to move a heavier mass than it does to move a lighter one.

The machines that don't ask you for your weight usually base their calculations on a 154-pound male. So if you weigh much less than that, the calorie reading you are getting on the display console could be way off.

Your individual metabolism

Even if the machine asks you to plug in your weight, the calculation could still be off-track because no matter how sophisticated and high-tech the machine, it cannot possibly calculate how much of you is lean (muscles and everything else that is not fat) and how much is fat. The more lean body mass you have, the more calories you burn. So two people could weigh the same, but the one with a higher lean body mass will burn more calories per minute. This is one of the reasons you should increase your lean mass through resistance training (weights, rubber bands, body-weight exercises).

The machine assumes you're going on a certain intensity or speed

When you set a treadmill to its highest incline, the machine "assumes" that you are hiking up this incline like you would outdoors on a real hill and therefore reflects the appropriate number of calories on the display panel. How is the machine to know that you are hanging on to the bars for dear life as if you were water skiing? The only one you are fooling is yourself if you think you have really burned all those calories.

Another example is on a stepper. Most machines assume you are taking a six-to-eight-inch step height. That is what they base their calculations on. Again, the machine has no way of knowing you are taking only "baby" steps. So even though the machine says you are burning mega calories, the reality is you are burning much less.

Faulty equations

Equations used by manufacturers to determine calories burned may have been based on people who are not yet comfortable with the machine. This is especially true for new innovative machines that are not yet commonplace. You burn more calories per minute when you are learning a new movement pattern than when your body is already used to the movement. The body becomes more energy-efficient. If you were a car, you'd be getting more mileage because your engine is better tuned-up.

The Tufts University article mentions a study done in the early '90s, when step aerobics and stepping machines first became popular. People in the study were burning an average of 8.5 calories per minute (based on an 8-inch step height). Seven years later, when the study was repeated, researchers found that people were now burning 7.5 calories per minute. The head of the research team claimed this could make a big difference over time.

"At the rate of several exercise sessions a week, it could add up to enough calories to account for three to four pounds in a year." So if you are new at using cardio machines, you are probably burning what the machines say you are, but as you become fitter and more coordinated, you will probably be burning a little less.

Another way the caloric equations could be faulty is if they are based on "gross caloric cost" and not on "net caloric cost." To explain the difference, we first have to talk about resting metabolic rate (RMR) or the amount of calories you burn at rest (doing absolutely nothing but lying still) during a 24-hour period. These are the calories burned to keep your heart beating, your liver working, etc. RMR is actually the biggest component of the total number of calories you burn every day.

Gross caloric cost of an activity combines not only the actual calories burning during the activity, but also your RMR for the number of minutes the activity is being done. Net caloric cost is how many calories the activity requires above what you burn at rest.

Here is an example given in the January 1999 issue of the American College of Sports Medicine Health and Fitness Journal. The gross caloric cost for a 160-pound man walking one mile at a speed of three miles per hour is 79 calories, while his net caloric cost is 56 calories.

Wrong exercise form and technique

I once had this client who would not leave the gym until she had burned 1,000 calories. She was so obsessed with this idea that she would hop from one type of cardio machine to another until she had reached her magic number. However, she was so focused on the number of calories she "had" to burn that she subconsciously learned to manipulate the machines with poor exercise technique.

Not only would she take "baby" steps on the stepper, but she would also lean over the handlebars. She would do the water skiing trick on the treadmill and on the cross-trainer (an upper-and-lower body elliptical machine that is a cross between running and cycling), she would use only her legs while the machine assumed she was also working her upper body. She was not only cheating on her exercise form and technique, but she was also cheating on herself because she was burning "fantasy" calories.

Ohio State University did a study on steppers and found that women who held the handrails burned fewer calories than those who swung their arms as if they were walking. According to researchers, even the lightest touch on the rails made a difference. Leaning forward and resting one's weight on the handrails was even worse—it cut the calories burned in half!

Interestingly enough, a previous study showed that men were not affected. Their caloric expenditure did not go down even if they held the sidebars. There was no mention if this included supporting body weight by leaning forward.

Practical tips to make your calorie burning more accurate

Here are a few tips suggested by Tufts University to make sure the calories you burn on a cardio machine are more accurate.

Go five minutes longer per exercise session than you have been going, but don't assume you're burning another five minutes worth of calories.

"Plug" in a body weight that's a little lighter. This will lead to a slightly lower calorie read-out that might be more in line with the calories you've truly burned.

Increase the workout level after a while. Once the workout begins to feel noticeably easier at a particular level, it means you're burning fewer calories. In fact, the best use of the display panel is to measure your progress. For example, if you see that your heart rate while working at a given intensity level has gone from 120-115 beats per minute, you know that you have gotten fitter (a fit heart beats less) and you can increase your exercise intensity in future workouts.

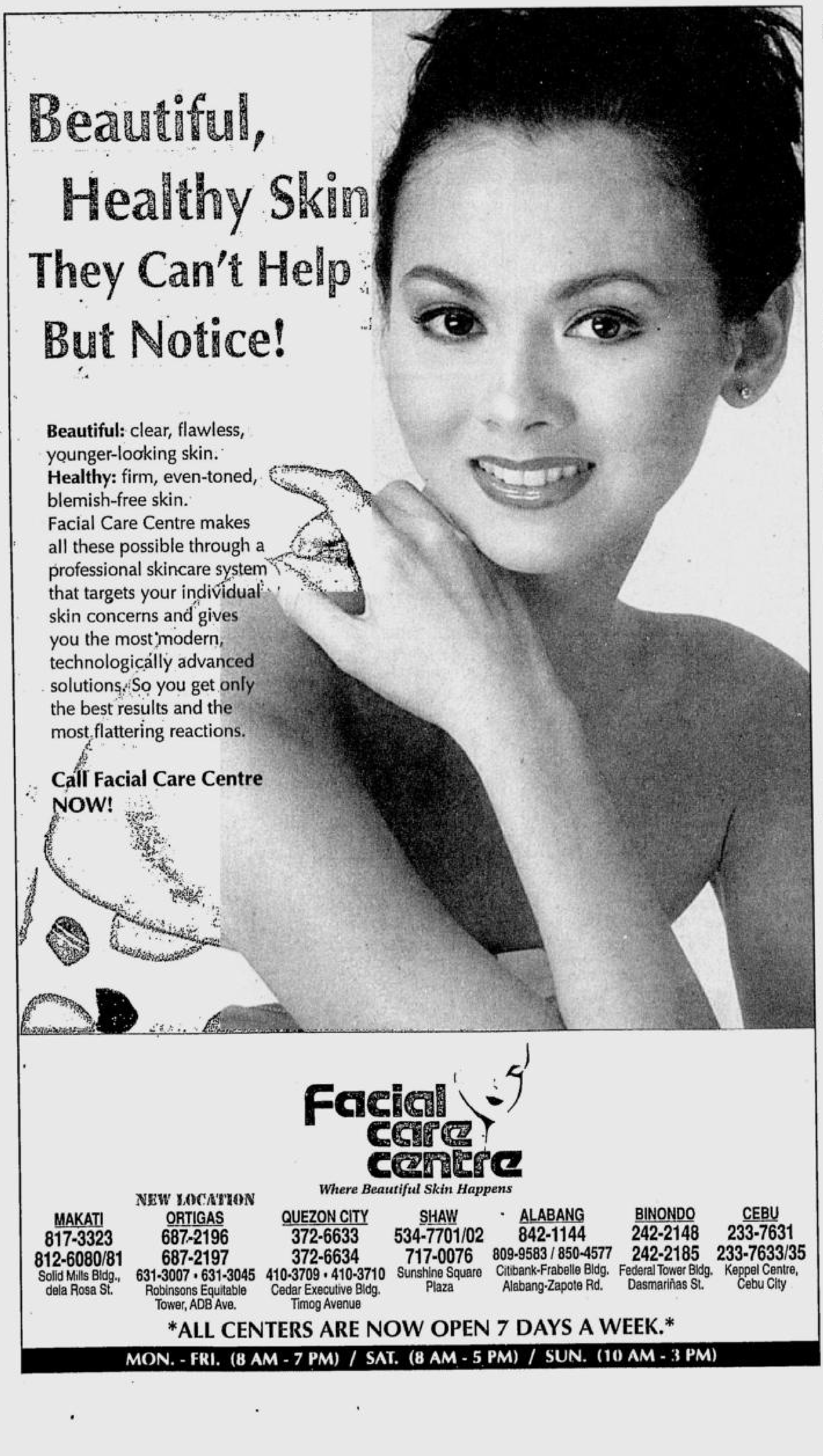
Use good technique. Handrails should be used for balance, not to carry your weight.

Consider cross-training on three or four machines. It'll help keep your body from getting too efficient on any one particular machine.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Basic Instructor Course at ProFit Center, QC (every Saturday, from March 3 to June 2) and in Baguio City on March 16 and 17. There will also be a Baguio Fitness Workshop that is open to the public on March 18. For Metro Manila, call Shirley Quejada at 426-5108. For Baguio, call Susan Sanidad at (074) 444-9798.

For past articles or exercises, go to my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com



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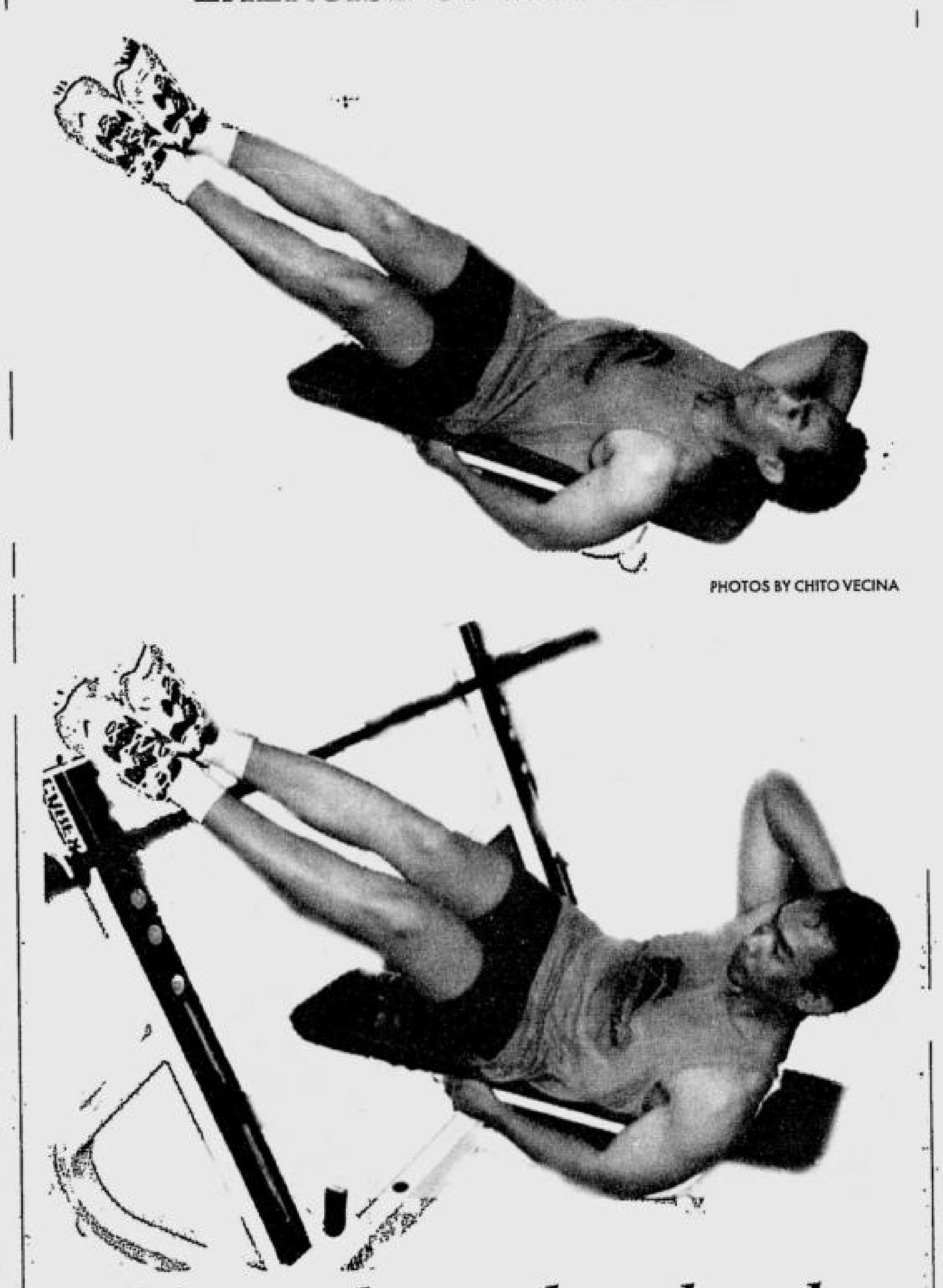
–EXERCISE OF THE WEEK–



PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Diagonal crunch on bench

Works the oblique muscles of the abdominal wall. These muscles criss-cross your waist in two opposing layers.

Equipment:
Gym bench and barbell

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down on the bench and hang your legs over the barbell while keeping your feet and knees together.
2. Move your feet to the left side of the barbell but keep your upper body on the bench. Place your right hand behind your head and hold the bench with your left hand.
3. Curl your upper body diagonally in the direction of your feet.
4. Slowly lower down.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions then repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Start the curl by contracting your abdominal muscles, not by pulling on your neck.
2. Curl and lower your upper body slowly. Avoid moving fast or jerking.
3. A common mistake in the performance of this exercise is to curl upward instead of diagonally.
4. You can also do this exercise on the floor and hang your legs on a gym bench, step bench or chair.

Repetitions:
Do 10-15 slow repetitions on each side. Rest. Do another set if you want to.